

Arthur Watts
18 Bowdoin St. Fleet St. E.C.

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT, AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XXV.—NEW SERIES, No. 1009.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1865.

PRICE { UNSTAMPED . 5d.
STAMPED . . . 6d.

THE REV. W. MORLEY PUNSHON will RE-DELIVER his LECTURE on "WILBERFORCE," in EXETER HALL, on TUESDAY EVENING, 7th March, 1865.

ROBERT N. FOWLER, Esq., will preside.

The Doors will be opened at Seven o'clock, and the Chair taken at Eight.

TICKETS—Ladies' Gallery, 5s.; Reserved Platform, 3s.; Reserved Central, 2s.; Area and Western Gallery, 2s.; Platform, 1s.; may be had of

James Nisbet and Co., 21, Berners-street, Oxford-street.
Bull's Library, 52, Wigmore-street, Cavendish-square.
Dalton, Cockspur-street.
Westerton, Knightsbridge.
Waters, 97, Westbourne-grove.
Boddington's Library, 1, Devonshire-terrace, Notting-hill-gate.

J. Gladding, 76, Whitechapel-road.
Burdekin, 97, Upper-street, Islington.
Warren Hall and Co., 10, Cambridge-terrace, Camden-road.
Alvey, 67, Newington-causeway.
The Book Society, 19, Paternoster-row.
Williams and Lloyd, 29, Moorgate-street.
Bennett, 5, Bishopsgate-street Without; and at
The Offices of the Association, 165, Aldersgate-street, City.
W. EDWYN SHIPTON, Secretary.

PADDINGTON CHAPEL, MARYLEBONE ROAD.

The above CHAPEL having been CLOSED for REPAIRS, will be REOPENED (D.V.) for DIVINE WORSHIP, on SUNDAY next, March 5th, when the Rev. GEORGE DOUGLAS MACGREGOR will commence his labours as the Pastor of the Church.

Service in the Morning at Eleven; Evening, at Quarter to Seven. Collections will be made in aid of the Repairs.

TO the BENEVOLENT PUBLIC.

An earnest appeal to the Benevolent Public is made on behalf of a Widow, a lady formerly in affluent circumstances, but through the long illness and death of her husband, left completely destitute. For a considerable time she has supported her family by giving lessons, and occasionally contributing to the support of the poor. But this is no very profitable mode of life, and she is now in a state of such extreme poverty, that she is unable to support her family. It is proposed to establish her in a school, or some other such means of future support; and an urgent appeal is now made in hopes of collecting a sufficient sum for this purpose. Contributions will be received and references given by R. N. Fowler, Esq., Messrs Dimdale and Co., Bankers, Cornhill, E.C.

HOSPITAL for DISEASES of the SKIN, NEW BRIDGE-STREET, BLACKFRIARS.

The Committee earnestly seek the sympathy of the Christian Public, for the many sufferers attending this Hospital. Nearly 1,000 attend weekly; 127,123 have received the benefits of the Charity since its establishment in 1841. The expenses are necessarily very heavy.

DONATIONS or SUBSCRIPTIONS will be most thankfully received. Bankers—Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, and Co., Lombard-street.

GEORGE BURT, F.R.C.S. Hon. Secretary,
ALFRED S. RICHARDS, Secretary.

HOSPITAL for SICK CHILDREN, 49, GREAT ORMOND-STREET.

Patron—Her Majesty the QUEEN.

This Institution is still the only Hospital in the metropolis specially set apart for the Reception of Sick Children. It is not endowed, but wholly dependent on voluntary support. The Committee very earnestly solicit CONTRIBUTIONS.

Bankers—Messrs. Williams, Deacon, and Co.; Messrs. Hoare; and Messrs. Herries.

F. H. DICKINSON, Chairman.

February, 1865.

NEW ZEALAND—ALBERTLAND ASSOCIATION.

First-class Ships sail monthly to Auckland. No open berths for families. Forty acres of land free. A large party will sail in May, 1865. Apply (prepaid) 3, St. Mary Axe, E.C., London. Agents wanted.

SAMUEL BRAME, Manager.

WANTED, by the LIFE INVESTMENT MORTGAGE and ASSURANCE COMPANY (Limited), DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS of AGENTS for several localities in England and Scotland. Middle-aged men preferred.

Apply, Head Office, 8, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars.
EDWIN YELLAND, Manager.

PARTNERSHIP.—To BANKERS, SOLICITORS, and OTHERS.—A MERCANTILE HOUSE, of first-class connections, of some years standing, principally engaged in the Shipping Trade, and in which there is at present only one in the business, is open to RECEIVE a PARTNER, with not less than 15,000l. capital. First-class references given and required.

Address, in the first instance, to A. B. C., care of Charles Barker and Sons, 8, Birch-lane.

TO DRAPERS' ASSISTANTS.—WANTED, for a first-class trade in Clifton, a YOUNG MAN, of decided Christian character, with about SEVEN YEARS' EXPERIENCE, and who can dress a window well.

Apply to Mr. J. H. Harrison, 21, Graham-street, London.

AN APPRENTICE WANTED to the HOSIERY and SHIRTMAKING BUSINESS. Must be an intelligent Youth. Premium required.

Apply to A. Beckingsale, 111, High-street, Cheltenham.

TETTENHALL PROPRIETARY SCHOOL.

MIDLAND COUNTIES PROPRIETARY SCHOOL COMPANY (LIMITED).

HEAD MASTER: Rev. ROBERT HALLEY, M.A.

This School furnishes, on moderate terms, a sound and liberal Education, both Classical and Commercial, with a religious training in harmony with the principles held by Evangelical Nonconformists.

The NEXT TERM will COMMENCE on the 5th April. Applications for admission should be addressed to the Head Master, who will supply any information that may be required.

TERMS:

For Pupils entering under 14 years of age, 40 guineas.
For Pupils entering above 14 years of age, 50 guineas.
Tettenhall is well known as a most healthy and picturesque village, quite out of the mining district, and within three miles of the railway-stations at Wolverhampton.

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The nobility, clergy, gentry, heads of families, and principals of schools, are respectfully informed that they can always be provided, free of charge, and at a few hours' notice, with Tutors, Secretaries, Governesses, Companions, and Lady Housekeepers. Undeniable references required before placing names upon the register, so that employers may accept an introduction from these offices as a guarantee of the respectability and good faith of the applicant. Advowsons and school disposed of. Pupils introduced.

Mr. E. HARRIS, Superintendent.

Agent for the Windsor School Desks, to transform into Backed Seats and Tables. Specimen on view.

COMMERCIAL SCHOOL, CRANFORD HALL, near HOUNSLOW, MIDDLESEX.

PRINCIPAL:—Mr. VERNY.

This school is adapted to the requirements of the Sons of Respectable Tradesmen and others. The Academics are First-class, spacious, elevated, and healthy; the rooms are large, airy, and lofty; there is an excellent well-ventilated school-room and class-rooms; a large playground, lawn, and garden; with every other convenience.

The education is sound, practical, and commercial; with or without French, Piano, Surveying, &c.

Mr. VERNY has for upwards of Twenty Years been actively engaged in the pleasing and responsible work of training the young, and is favoured with numerous references.

TERMS PER QUARTER:

For Pupils over Twelve years of age, Seven Guineas.
For Pupils under Twelve years of age, Six Guineas.

(Terms made inclusive, when preferred.)

Cranford Hall School is on the Bath-road, twelve miles from Hyde-park Corner, and near the Hounslow, Feltham, Southall, and West Drayton Stations, at either of which Mr. VERNY's conveyance meets Parents and Pupils.

EDUCATIONAL HOME for YOUNG LADIES—MALVERN.

The Principal of a very select establishment, delightfully situated in a most pleasant and healthy part of Worcestershire, desires to receive TWO or THREE YOUNG LADIES on very moderate terms. The pupils receive a very superior education, combined with all the comforts of a home.

For prospectus and full information apply to the Superintendent, Clerical and Scholastic Agency Offices, 78, Borough-road, London, S.E.

STOKE HALL SCHOOL, IPSWICH.

Mr. JOHN D. BUCK, B.A., Principal.

Situation elevated and healthy, near the Railway Station. Education: Commercial and Classical, adapted to the Middle-Class Examinations.

A Preparatory Department for Younger Pupils. Prospectuses forwarded on application.

BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE.

Rev. R. C. JESSOP, B.A., Head Master.

Terms, &c., on application.

THE Rev. RICHARD PERKINS, PEACHFIELD, GREAT MALVERN, Receives a LIMITED NUMBER of GENTLEMEN'S SONS to BOARD and EDUCATE. Terms, &c., on application.

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Qualities and prices will compare advantageously with any house in the trade. The Forms and Account Books required under "THE COMPANIES' ACT, 1862" kept in stock. Share Certificates Engraved and Printed. Official Seals Designed and Executed.—ASH and FLINT, 49, Fleet-street, City, E.C., and opposite the Railway Stations, London-bridge, S.E.

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SEWING MACHINES of the very First Class of Excellence and Workmanship, in each of the various descriptions of stitch, for cloth, linen, leather embroidery, and glove-sewing, including Prize Medal Machines.

The quality of these Machines can always be depended on. For sale under direct supply, retail, wholesale, and for exportation.

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THE GROVER and BAKER SEWING-MACHINE COMPANY hereby give PUBLIC NOTICE

that they have CANCELLED the AGENCY for GREAT BRITAIN hitherto held by NEWTON WILSON and CO., who will no longer be supplied with any of their Machines.

The Offices and Sale Rooms of the Company are now established at

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and 59, BOLD-STREET, LIVERPOOL.

SEWING MACHINES.

GROVER AND BAKER'S

CELEBRATED ELASTIC OR DOUBLE LOCK-STITCH SEWING MACHINES,

WITH ALL THE LATEST IMPROVEMENTS,

ARE THE BEST AND SIMPLEST EVER OFFERED,

AND ARE WARRANTED TO DO

BETTER, STRONGER, AND HANDSOMER WORK, WITH LESS TROUBLE, THAN ANY OTHER.

For Family Use, or Dress and Mantle Making, they are positively unrivalled, doing plain and ornamental work with equal facility. They stitch, hem, fell, tuck, gather, quilts, cord, braid, and embroider, are very easily managed, and not liable to derangement. Upwards of 100,000 now in use in all parts of the world.

Every Machine guaranteed. Instruction gratis. Illustrated prospectus and samples of work gratis and post free.

GROVER AND BAKER, SEWING MACHINE COMPANY,

150, REGENT-STREET, LONDON, W.

59, BOLD-STREET, LIVERPOOL.

These Machines, and the work done upon them, have never failed to achieve the first premium over all competitors at the various exhibitions.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL, and GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

13, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

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The Archbishop of CANTERBURY.

CHAIRMAN.

Right Hon. JOHN ROBERT MOWBRAY, M.P.

DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN.

WILLIAM DICKSON, Esq., F.R.S., &c.

SIR CHARLES DOCKOCK, Bart., F.R.S., &c.

FINANCIAL RESULTS OF THE SOCIETY'S OPERATIONS.

The Annual Income exceeds £250,000.
The Assurance Fund safely invested over £1,200,000.
The New Policies in the last year were 466, assuring £271,440.
The Bonus added to Policies at the last Division was £273,077.
The Total Claims by death paid amount to £1,982,629.

The following are among the distinctive features of the Society:—

CREDIT SYSTEM.—On any Policy for the whole of Life, where the age does not exceed 60, one half of the Annual Premiums during the first five years may remain on credit, and may either continue as a debt on the Policy, or be paid off at any time.

LOW RATES OF PREMIUM FOR YOUNG LIVES, with early participation in profits.

ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES may be effected, without Profit, by which the Sum Assured becomes payable on the attainment of a specified age, or at death, whichever event shall first happen.

INVALID LIVES may be assured at rates proportioned to the increased risk.

PROMPT SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS.—Claims paid thirty days after proof of death.

The Reversionary Bonus at the Quinquennial Division in 1862 averaged 48 per Cent. and the Cash Bonus 28 per Cent., on the Premiums paid in the five years.

The next Division of Profit will take place in January, 1867, and persons whose Policies mature at the end of June next will be entitled at that Division to the year's additional share of Profits over later Entrants.

Tables of Rates and Forms of Proposal can be obtained of any of the Society's Agents, or of

GEORGE CUTCLIFFE, Actuary and Secretary,
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IMMEDIATE CASH ADVANCES.—Money

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SUMS from 10l. to 300l. ADVANCED two or three days after application, for two years, one year, and six months, payable by weekly, monthly, or quarterly instalments, and good bills discounted. Charges moderate, and strict confidence observed.

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Forms of application and prospectus (gratis) on receipt of a stamped envelope.

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MARCH 1,

THE NONCONFORMIST.

1865.

THE GENERAL PROVIDENT ASSURANCE COMPANY (Limited).

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CAPITAL—HALF-A-MILLION.

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JOE CAUDWELL, Esq., Deputy-Chairman.
F. Brodigan, Esq., J.P. | Hubert G. Grist, Esq.
Alfred Bryant, Esq. | Joseph A. Horner, Esq.
W. Paul Clift, Esq. | Right Hon. Lord Teynham.

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Edward Schnadhorst, Esq.

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HOMOEOPATHIC REFEREE—Jacob Dixon, Esq., M.D.
SOLICITOR—Henry Earle, Esq., 29, Bedford-row, London.

BANKERS.
The London and Westminster Bank, Temple-bar.
The Estates Bank, 156, Strand, London; and 6, D'Olier-street, Dublin.

CONSULTING ACTUARY—W. S. B. Woolhouse, Esq., F.R.A.S.

MANAGING DIRECTOR—Hubert George Grist, Esq.

SUB-MANAGER—Herbert Thompson, Esq.

SECRETARY FOR IRELAND—Ed. Allworthy, Esq., Belfast.

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Paid-up Policies on Equitable Terms.
Deposit Policies in lieu of Fixed Sums paid down.
Special Temperance Section.
Special Homoeopathic Section.
Special Working Men's Section.
Advances in connection with Life Assurance.
Immediate and Deferred Annuities.
Educational and General Endowments.

The Board will be glad to entertain applications (addressed to the Managing Director), for Agencies from Persons able to introduce business. Prospectuses sent per post for one stamp.

MANCHESTER FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—ESTABLISHED 1824.

98, KING-STREET, MANCHESTER.

96, Cheapside, London.

Capital: One Million Sterling.

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DAVID HARRISON, Esq., Deputy Chairman.
John Barratt, Esq. | John Heugh, Esq.
Edmund Buckley, jun., Esq. | Bernhard Liebert, Esq.
John Chapman, Esq., M.P. | Alfred Milne, Esq.
Thos. Barham Foster, Esq. | Joseph Peel, Esq.
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Insurances are granted by this Company on nearly every description of Property in Great Britain, at moderate rates. Insurances may also be effected on Property in Foreign Countries, and in some of the Colonies, at current rates. Mills, Factories, and other hazardous risks will be surveyed at the request of the owner. Cotton Mills not at work, will be insured at 5s. per cent. per Annum. Farming Stock insured Free from Duty, allowing the use of a Steam Threshing Machine. Applications for Agencies should be addressed to

JAMES B. NORTHCOTT, Secretary to the Company.

DEBENTURES at 5, 5½, and 6 PER CENT. CEYLON COMPANY, LIMITED.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, £500,000.

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Harry George Gordon, Esq. | Patrick F. Robertson, Esq.
George Ireland, Esq. | Robert Smith, Esq.

MANAGER—C. J. Braine, Esq.

The Directors are prepared to issue Debentures for one, three, and five years, at 5, 5½, and 6 per cent. respectively. They are also prepared to Invest Money on Mortgage in Ceylon and Mauritius, either with or without the guarantee of the Company, as may be arranged.

Applications for particulars to be made at the Offices of the Company, No. 12, Leadenhall-street, London.—By order,
JOHN ANDERSON, Secretary.

COALS.—Best Sunderland, 27s.; Newcastle or Hartlepool, 26s.; best Silktown, 23s.; Clay Cross, 23s. and 21s.; Coke, per chaldron, 10s.

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COALS.—Best Coals only.—GEO. J. COCKERELL and Co.'s price is now 28s. per ton cash for the BEST SCREENED COALS, as supplied by them to her Majesty and H. R. H. the Prince of Wales.—13, Cornhill, E.C.; Purfleet-wharf, Earl-street, Blackfriars, E.C.; Eaton-wharf, Grosvenor-canal, Pinlicko, S.W.; Sunderland-wharf, Peckham, S.E.; and Durham-wharf, Wandsworth, S.W.; and at Brighton.

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An ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE, with prices of 1,000 articles of BEDROOM FURNITURE, sent (free by post) on application to FILMER and SONS, Upholsterers, 31, 32, and 34, Berners-street, London, W.

NUNN'S MARSALA or BRONTE WINE, 25s. per dozen, 74. 4s. per six dozen, 127. 15s. per quarter cask. Rail paid to any station in England. This wine will be found of superior quality, is soft and old, and though full flavoured, entirely free from heat or the slightest approach to acidity.

Tuos. NUNN and SONS, Wine, Spirit, and Liqueur Merchants, 21, Lamb's Conduit-street, W.C. Price lists on application. Established 1801.

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TRADE MARK.

On each



THE BULL'S HEAD, Package.

At the Great Exhibition, 1862,
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ONLY PRIZE MEDAL

For "Purity and Excellence of Quality."

Sold by all Grocers, Druggists, &c., throughout the United Kingdom.

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FURNISH YOUR HOUSE WITH THE BEST ARTICLES

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DEANE'S—Celebrated Table Cutlery, every variety of style and finish.

DEANE'S—Electro-plated Spoons and Forks, best manufacture, strongly plated.

DEANE'S—Electro-plate Tea and Coffee Sets, Liqueur Stands, Cruets, Cake Baskets, &c.

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DEANE'S—Horticultural Tools, Lawn Mowers, Garden Rollers, Wire-work, &c.

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The beneficial and emollient advantages of GLYCERINE, for softening the skin and preventing or curing cracked hands, are secured by Laundresses or Servants when using Harper Twelvetees' popular Preparation of

GLYCERINE AND SOAP-POWDER,

a Penny Packet of which will make nearly a pound of strong Washing Soap. It greatly expedites the Family Wash, and is regularly used by Thousands of Families on account of its harmless, effective, and economical properties. Ask for "Harper Twelvetees' GLYCERINE for Washing." Sold by Grocers and Druggists.

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WINE, the most palatable and wholesome Bitter in existence; an efficient Tonic, an unequalled stomachic, and a gentle stimulant. Sold by Grocers, Italian Warehousemen, Wine Merchants, Confectioners, and others, at 30s. a dozen. Manufactured by WATERS and WILLIAMS, 2, Martin's-lane, Cannon-street, London. Wholesale Agents, E. Lewis and Co., Worcester.

RUPTURES.

BY HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.

WHITE'S MOC-MAIN PATENT

LEVER TRUSS, requiring no steel spring round the body, is recommended for the following peculiarities and advantages:—1st. Facility of application; 2nd. Perfect freedom from liability to chafe or excoriate; 3rd. It may be worn with equal comfort in any position of the body, by night or day; 4th. It admits of every kind of exercise without the slightest inconvenience to the wearer, and is perfectly concealed from observation.

"We do not hesitate to give to this invention our unqualified approbation; and we strenuously advise the use of it to all those who stand in need of that protection, which they cannot so fully, nor with the same comfort, obtain from any other apparatus of truss as from that which we have the highest satisfaction in thus recommending."—Church and State Gazette.

Recommended by the following eminent Surgeons:—William Ferguson, Esq., F.R.S., Professor of Surgery in King's College, Surgeon to King's College Hospital, &c.; C. G. Guthrie, Esq., Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital; W. Bowman, Esq., F.R.S., Assistant-Surgeon to King's College Hospital; T. Callaway, Esq., Senior Assistant-Surgeon to Guy's Hospital; W. Coulson, Esq., F.R.S., Surgeon to the St. George's Hospital; T. Blizard Curling, Esq., F.R.S., Surgeon to the London Hospital; W. J. Fisher, Esq., Surgeon-in-Chief to the Metropolitan Police Force; Aston Key, Esq., Surgeon to Prince Albert; Robert Liston, Esq., F.R.S.; James Luke, Esq., Surgeon to the London Truss Society; Erasmus Wilson, Esq., F.R.S.; and many others.

A Descriptive Circular may be had by post, and the Truss which cannot fail to fit) can be forwarded by post, on sending the circumference of the body, two inches below the hips, to the Manufacturer.

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Price of a Single Truss, 16s., 21s., 26s. 6d., and 31s. 6d. Postage, 1s.

Price of a Double Truss, 31s. 6d., 42s., and 52s. 6d. Postage 1s. 8d.

Price of an Umbilical Truss, 42s. and 52s. Postage 1s. 10d.

Post-office Orders to be made payable to John White, Post Office, Piccadilly.

NEW PATENT

ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEE-CAPS, &c

The material of which these are made is recommended by the faculty as being peculiarly elastic and compressible, and the best invention for giving efficient and permanent support in all cases of WEAKNESS, and swelling of the LEGS, VARI-COSE VEINS, SPRAINS, &c. It is porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and is drawn on like an ordinary stocking. Price 4s. 6d., 7s. 6d. 10s., to 16s. each. Postage 6d.

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This celebrated old IRISH WHISKY rivals the finest French brandy. It is pure, mild, mellow, delicious, and very wholesome.

Sold in bottles, 8s. 6d. each, at the retail houses London; by the agents in the principal towns in England; or wholesale at 8, Great Windmill-street, London, W.

Observe the red seal, pink label, and cork, branded "Kinahan's LL Whisky."

HAIR DYE.—BACHELOR'S INSTANTANEOUS COLUMBIAN, the best in the world, in the New York original packets, 4s. 6d., 7s., and 14s. each.

Sold by Hairdressers, and wholesale at R. Hovenden and Sons, Wholesale Perfumers, 5, Great Marlborough-street, W.; and 93 and 95, City-road, E.C.

N.B.—If found to fail, the money will be returned for any unused portion.

HAIR DYE! HAIR DYE! HAIR DYE!

GILLINGWATER'S ATRAPILATORY is the best Hair Dye in England. Grey, red, or rusty hair dyed instantly to a beautiful and natural brown or black without the least injury to hair or skin, and the ill effects of bad dyes remedied. Sold by all Chemists and Perfumers of repute, and by the Proprietor, W. Gillingwater, 353 (late 96), Goswell-road. Sent free to any railway station in the kingdom, in cases, 3s. 6d., 5s. 6d., and 10s. 6d. each. Beware of Counterfeits.

HAIR DESTROYER for removing superfluous hair on the face, neck, and arms. This real disfigurement, if female beauty is effectually removed by this article, which is easily applied, and certain in effect. In Boxes, with directions for use, 3s. 6d. each. Sent free to any railway station, and may be had of Perfumers and Chemists, and of the proprietor, W. Gillingwater, 353 (late 96), Goswell-road. Beware of Counterfeits.

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ORIGINAL

THE
Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT, AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

**IN EVERYBODY'S MIND, BUT IN
NOBODY'S MOUTH.**

WE have had a great debate in the House of Commons on the condition of Ireland. It has been established during the course of it that the sister kingdom is suffering severe distress. It has come out, too, that disaffection towards England and English rule exists among the Irish people to a deplorable extent—that those of them who emigrate carry with them to their foreign or colonial homes the deadliest enmity towards the British empire—and that those who remain curse their connection with this country. The temper of the inhabitants of Ireland is soured, exasperated, but despondent, and their temper reacts upon their outward circumstances. Lord Palmerston, in one of the most sensible speeches we remember to have come from his lips for a long time past, puts the case in few words—"The real question is," says he, "how can you create in Ireland that demand and reward for labour which would render the people of Ireland willing to remain at home, instead of emigrating to England or Scotland, on the one hand, or to the North American States, on the other. Nothing can do that except the influx of capital. . . . What is it, then, which has hitherto prevented the influx of capital into Ireland? Why, it is the double notion, first, that Ireland does not afford the same means for the profitable employment of capital that exist in England and Scotland, and, secondly, that there is not the same security in Ireland. . . . Hitherto political and religious feuds that have prevailed in Ireland have created exaggerated notions in this country of the insecurity that attends the employment of capital in Ireland." Mr. Roebuck, in his needlessly acrimonious speech, said much the same thing. His advice to both Protestants and Catholics was—"Break down the prejudices that have beset you for ages." "The miseries of Ireland," he said, "are caused by her own children, by their weakness, their prejudices, their narrow views, their hostility one towards another."

We believe this. We believe that religious feuds and sectarian animosities are at the bottom of Ireland's want of prosperity. The temper of the people presents the main obstacle to their success in anything. Will any one pretend that Providence has denied to that people what may be regarded as the raw material of national well-being? Ireland's climate is moist, it is true, and perhaps unsuited to the raising of cereal crops. Her geographical con-

formation may be such as to subject her to some disadvantage. But, looking rather to what she does possess than to what she does not, is there any intelligent and unbiassed judge of such matters who would seriously contend that, under no conceivable circumstances, can Ireland be expected to maintain a thriving and happy community as numerous as that which now dwindles in misery? The character, temper and spirit of her inhabitants create about them a social atmosphere far more detrimental to national development than any humidity of climate, or any geological peculiarities. And religious differences, exasperated in part by differences of race, have been and still are instrumental in forming and fixing that character, temper and spirit. Statesmen of all parties are, at length, coming to see this. Ought not statesmen deserving the name also to see the direction in which a remedy must be applied? They do—they exhort Ireland to get rid of her religious factions as the first step towards the realisation of better prospects—and yet they debate through two nights, without touching (with a single exception) upon what they all know to be the prolific source of all religious feuds and ecclesiastical animosities in that country—namely, an alien Church Establishment.

It is the policy of the Imperial Legislature to maintain that Establishment in Ireland, for the purpose of strengthening the sister Establishment in this country. What the State-Church was, and what it did, in Ireland from the Revolution of 1688 to Catholic Emancipation in 1829, we all know too well. It tied the hands, it crippled the industry, it confiscated the estates, it broke the hope, of the Catholic majority, with a meanness and truculency of spirit which scarcely have a parallel in history. It is now above seventy years ago that Arthur Young, a competent and dispassionate authority, wrote—"The fact is, the professors of the Catholic religion are under such discouragement that they cannot engage in any trade which requires both industry and capital. If they succeed and make a fortune, what are they to do with it? They can neither buy land, or take a mortgage, nor even fine down the rent of a lease. Where is there a people in the world to be found industrious under such circumstances? . . . The scope, purport and aim of the laws of discovery, as executed, are not against the Catholic religion, but against the industry and property of whoever professes that religion. . . . Those laws have crushed all the industry and wrested most of the property from the Catholics, but the religion triumphs and is thought to increase." Well, that shameful era has closed. Those persecuting laws have been repealed. But the spirit which they necessarily engendered cannot so easily be quelled. "Forgive and forget," is now the exhortation which we address to Ireland still suffering from the effects of that cruel, rapacious, and intolerant period. How can they forgive and forget while we maintain in their midst a badge of their ecclesiastical inferiority? There can be no return of good feeling whilst that is suffered to remain. Our statesmen know that as well as we do. They give excellent counsel, but they decline acting upon it. They feed and defend the source of religious feuds in Ireland, and content themselves with urging the Irish to get rid of them as the chief obstacle to their secular prosperity. They talk, and talk excellently, for a dozen or more hours, and they cannot bring themselves to allude to that which did and does the mischief which they all so pathetically deplore.

The *Times*, in commenting on the debate of Friday and Monday last, says:—"The only thing existing to which the political malcontents of Ireland can now point as an instance of English injustice is the Established Church; and though we desire not to say one word in favour of this unhappy institution, or to ward off its fate when its time shall come, it is simply absurd to suppose

that it can really be in any way the cause of the poverty of Ireland. If the incomes of all the Bishops reverted to the State, and the tithes of all the clergy to the landowners, would this mere transfer of a few hundred thousand pounds a-year have the slightest effect on the condition of the people? It is only minds blinded by prejudice or led away by the declamations of agitators that can believe in such a thing."

The question is not whether "the transfer of a few hundred thousand pounds a-year" would redeem Ireland from poverty, although it might certainly do something towards arterial drainage, and other general improvements, much needed, but not likely to be undertaken by private enterprise. But the real question is whether it would not speedily bring to a close those sectarian animosities which stand so much in the way of industrial revival in Ireland. Why be so earnest in imploring Irishmen to sink their differences, unless these differences are held to account largely for Irish poverty? "Legislation," says the *Times*, "can do but little in this matter; but if there be a political cause which conduces to these troubles, it is to be found in the violence which drives away capital from the shores of Ireland." Exactly so; and of this violence an alien Establishment has been the perennial fount. If the temper of the Irish people is the parent of their misery, then, surely, it must be the object of wise statesmanship to soothe and sweeten that temper by whatever legislation is sound and just in itself. The mere pecuniary benefit of putting an end to the worst anomaly of our times may be small indeed—but its social effect, aye, and its political effect, will be inestimable. "We cannot give a new climate; we cannot change geological formations." No, but is not that a sufficient reason for doing what is within our power, and removing an institution which exacerbates natural misfortunes? The ostrich buries its head in the sand to avoid seeing its foes, as if it could thus escape danger—our House of Commons seems to fancy that by never alluding to the Irish Church they can get rid of the evils which she engenders. They will have to open their eyes before long.

**NOTE ON MR. PATON'S LETTER IN
OUR LAST NUMBER.**

MR. PATON's lengthy letter on the Nottingham Congregational Institute does not touch the only point for the sake of which our second article on the College Conference was written; namely, to give a truthful representation of what actually took place at the Conference, in reply to the very inadequate and misleading statement of "A Representative of the Nottingham Institution."

Mr. Paton intimates that he has no time for controversy. But *this* controversy is entirely a little game of his own, founded on our accurate report of what had been incorrectly represented by a correspondent.

Mr. Paton seems to assume that we have "raised" the two questions which his letter discusses; but the fact is, that we reported them as raised in the Conference by Mr. Rooker.

Mr. Paton is as inaccurate in small things as the Nottingham delegate. First, he substitutes "amiable intentions," as ascribed to the Nottingham Committee, for "amiable assurances," given at the Conference. Secondly, he attributes to us the error of supposing it to have been part of the reply on behalf of the Nottingham friends, that they "would reject men *because* of their ability"; while it is plain enough that we ascribe the phrase to Mr. Rooker's questioning—would the Nottingham Committee do so, and if not, &c., &c.

Mr. Paton writes of our "contributor"; but the articles on which he comments were inserted as "editorials"; and Mr. Paton violates the courtesy usually observed in the case of articles so appearing.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

We dare say that the step taken by the Rev. Canon Parr, Vicar of Preston, in resigning his connection with the Preston Auxiliary of the Bible Society, because of the "declared hostility of the leaders of Dissent to the constitution of the country in Church and State," will meet with approbation both from Churchmen and Dissenters. We must expect a good deal of this kind of thing during the next few years, and it ought to be expected. In the Vicar of Preston's case there are special reasons why it should be expected from him. He is one of the few clergymen in England who persist in the levy of Easter-dues. His course as Vicar with respect to this question has been characterised by great harshness, and has roused the strongest feeling in the town. Nonconformists of all denominations have banded together to oppose his unjust claims. Last week they held a meeting which was probably the most ably-conducted and successful public meeting on an ecclesiastical question ever held in this large Lancashire town. Here Congregationalists, Baptists, Unitarians, and Roman Catholics, were found standing together on what is virtually the platform of the Liberation Society and on the principles of this Society avowing, amidst the enthusiastic cheers of the people, their determination to resist at any sacrifice the Vicar's demands. How could the Vicar meet any of these men at the committee of the Bible Society? We are glad to think that although he may be an intolerant man he is not a hypocrite. He has therefore obeyed his natural instincts in withdrawing from association with men whom he is persecuting. How could he meet them? How could he pray with them? Why, he must hate them. To associate with them after putting a distress warrant into their houses for sixpence-halfpenny was impossible. To associate with them, especially to promote the circulation of the Bible, would be sheer hypocrisy. That Book, is to the vicar one, to the Nonconformists altogether another book. The Christ of an Easter-dues Churchman who will seize his neighbour's goods is opposed to the Christ of the Nonconformist, almost as widely as the Prince of Darkness is opposed to the Prince of Light. Their Gospels are totally different Gospels. One is a Gospel of love; the other of force. One would win; the other would compel. One believes in giving; the other believes in getting. One believes in submission; the other believes in persecution. The marvel is that the two parties have ever united for the promotion of any religious object, especially for the circulation of the Bible. That Book which contains the revelation of infinite justice, forbearance, mercy, charity, and love. How can a man who is sworn to obey the Canons of the Established Church—who, if he can, will harry every Dissenter out of his parish—who will refuse to him charities, deny to him education, and spurn his dead body with contempt from a common burial-ground—how can that man unite with a Nonconformist to promote its circulation? The Vicar of Preston is, therefore, as we have said, only obeying his natural instincts in severing his connection with the Bible Society. It was a matter of no little difficulty to get Churchmen, when that Society was established, to join Dissenters. They will now probably fall off from it by the force of natural gravitation. We hardly know that the thing is to be regretted; we only know that, from the bottom of our hearts, we pity the men, who, like this Vicar, are compelled by their deeds thus to shun the society of those whom they have injured.

It is natural, as we have said, that men who thus act should be compelled by a moral feeling working within their own breasts to cease having to do with the circulation of the Scriptures. We do not, however, find the same thing to occur in connection with other societies, nor is it so necessary that it should occur. This may be said especially of the Young Men's Christian Association, which last week held its twentieth annual meeting. We are glad to see that this useful society is getting free of unexpected debt, and perhaps we ought to say we are glad that it has passed its present season without calling down upon its admirable lectures any Encyclical letters from the Popes of Protestantism. He who could scent heterodoxy in Dr. Edmond's lecture on "Some of the Social Laws of Moses," in Mr. Burgess's lecture on Italy and France, in Mr. Dale's lecture, "From Doubt to Faith," or in Dr. Miller's lecture on John Angell James, must be glad of scenting it. And, no doubt, some people are glad. They will scent it out as a pig will scent his wash, and a crow his carrion, which means that, after all, they like it, and could not live without it. The heterodox of heart have, unfor-

fortunately, always been eager enough to hunt down the heterodox of intellect. Which of the two the Judge of all is most likely to condemn it would not be difficult, we hope, to say.

"For private circulation only." Such are the words which we find printed at the top of a light green-coloured pamphlet issued from Plumstead, without a printer's or publisher's name, and purporting to be a statement of the case of Captain Steele, with reference to the Plumstead churchyard question. Captain Steele, it will be remembered, was one of those churchwardens of Plumstead who lost their case against the Dissenters of that parish in the matter of a Burial-rate. Having lost it, they incurred, of course, certain legal expenses. The present pamphlet is written to expose the hardship which Captain Steele has suffered in consequence of his having become liable to pay those expenses, and he attributes those hardships to the Liberation Society. Captain Steele says that "the malcontents, under the guidance of the Liberation Society, carried the case into the Common Pleas"; that "the malcontents, aided by the Liberation Society, were busily engaged in inducing a large portion of the inhabitants to refuse the payment of the rate"; that "on the termination of the proceedings a peremptory demand from the head-quarters of the Liberation Society (a self-constituted association assuming to alter the fundamental laws of the realm) for the sum of 300*l.* for law costs" was made; that the "harsh and unprecedented proceedings adopted by the Liberation Society towards the churchwarden, were as follows," &c., "that the persecuted churchwarden could not obtain any meacy from the Liberation Society," and so on. Who will believe, after these extracts—what Captain Steele and the Vicar of Plumstead too well know—that the Liberation Society had no more to do with this case than the Man in the Moon? that from beginning to end it did not touch it, employed nobody in it, and was not employed by any one? And the persecuted churchwarden, forsooth! Why did he go to law to force a miserable rate out of the pockets of a few Dissenters? Why, having gone to law, does he now whine about the results, and parade a series of gratuitous falsehoods to bring odium on men who had nothing whatever to do with the case? We mark this pamphlet as a specimen of Church literature and Church morality. As for the churchwarden, he has only met with his deserts. When Church measure is meted to Churchmen it causes a wonderful outcry. Never was such cruelty and such persecution. Then, why, in half the parishes in England, do they practise it?

The Committee of the Lower House of Convocation on the relations between the Church of England and the Committee of Council on Education, have published their report. It contains an elaborate statement of the history of the Conscience Clause Movement—most evidently from the pen of the Archdeacon of Taunton. The reporters protest against the application of the clause to any school connected either with the Church or with the National Society; they express their opinion that a crisis has now arrived in the history of the relations between the Church and the Committee of Council, and one that involves the deepest and most serious consequence to religious education, and which calls for the distinct expression of the judgment of Convocation. That judgment will, we dare say, be pronounced in May. We know beforehand what it will say, and we know what effect any resolution it may pass will have on public opinion and in Parliament.

We have called attention once or twice to the Report of the Subscription Commission. May we now recommend the small blue book which contains it to the attention of all ecclesiastical controversialists? Its contents will be found to be of unusual literary value. It contains all the declarations, to be taken at any time, by clergymen; and all the statutes and canons imposing those declarations. The history of Subscription in the Church of England, by Mr. Walpole is an exceedingly valuable historical document. Here, too, is to be found, for the first time in print, the Comprehension Bill of 1689. This interesting document, which Lord Macaulay says only two or three persons living had ever seen, is here printed in fac-simile from the copy preserved amongst the Records of the House of Lords. Blue-books are not, to many persons, very attractive reading, but this book will, we think, be found to be an exception.

And so a Dean and Chapter have turned in their extremity to Nonconformists! Churchmen [being reluctant to enter the gates of the Durham University, the Dean and Chapter have been good enough to throw them a little wider open. By the new regulations, all Nonconformists may enter and remain in this University on an equality with Churchmen,

excepting that for the study of theology, they must make a Subscription. The concession comes with a bad grace, but we do not know why we should not take advantage of it. We ought not to expect perfection even in a Dean and Chapter.

THE ANTI-EASTER-DUES AGITATION AT PRESTON.

The *Preston Guardian* reports at length a very crowded and enthusiastic meeting, held at the Corn Exchange, of that town, in favour of the abolition of Easter-dues, and for the purpose of restoring two hams and a barometer recently taken from Mr. Robert Smalley and Mr. Isaac Simpson, on account of their refusal to pay the required dues. Handbills having been distributed amongst several members of the Church of England requesting them to attend the meeting and oppose the proceedings, the committee announced that admittance to the front portion of the room would be by ticket, and for those only who were in favour of the object of the meeting. But only a few obtained admittance, and there was no particular disturbance. The *Guardian* says:—

When the ticket-taker asked one lad whether he had a card of admission, a copy of the paper given away at his schoolroom last Sunday was presented; and when one of the speakers adverted to the conscientious objections of certain Jews to fall down and worship Nebuchadnezzar's image of gold, an ecclesiastical student in the back seats showed his proficiency by shouting out, "Because they were Christians!"

After a few remarks from the CHAIRMAN, who subsequently referred to the recent agitation in Acerington about Easter-dues, which he said were now quite abolished, and where no unpleasantness existed, the voluntary principle acting admirably, the Rev. JOHN BRIGGS and Mr. E. COX delivered eloquent and racy speeches. They were followed by Mr. JOHN WARD, who said:—

As an Irishman, and as a member of the Roman Catholic religion, he could not see why person's goods should be seized and sold by auction, when they refused to pay those cursed dues, which they have no right to pay. ("Hear, hear," and interruption.) He was sorry to see the Catholics of Preston going arm in arm with the members of the Established Church, and sending Conservatives to represent them in the House of Commons, who had as great a feeling against them, inwardly, as they ever had before. (Applause.) When England was a Catholic country, they would find it recorded in history that Easter-dues were appropriated to a far different purpose to what they were now. The monasteries fed the poor of England then—(Hear, hear)—and the tithes furnished them with means of so doing. (Applause.) The Easter-dues were voluntary gifts; and from such the people were also educated. But how is it now? Were the poor fed with them? ("No," and "Yea.") He thought not, and for these reasons they ought to oppose the Easter-dues system.

The Rev. W. C. SQUIER, who was very cordially received, delivered an animated speech, in the course of which he said that the Catholic churches, the Nonconformist chapels, and the district churches belonging to the Church of England, were not kept up by forced payments, but by voluntary gifts. (Loud applause.) The vicar was the only person in Preston, and the parish church the only place of worship in Preston, that people were compelled to pay to. (Hear, hear.) The idea of restoring the property taken for Easter-dues to the real owners originated with a venerable patriot and philanthropist, Mr. Joseph Livesey—(loud cheers)—who could not be present with them, and at his suggestion he (Mr. S.) bought the hams and the barometer. At the request of the Rev. W. C. Squier, Mr. Isaac Simpson and Mr. R. Smalley were called upon the platform, when the rev. gentleman addressed them as follows:—

Gentlemen,—You represent this night the great principles—the great and sacred principles—of civil and religious freedom—principles for which in days gone by our spiritual forefathers lived, laboured, fought, and died. You have suffered, gentlemen, the spoiling of your goods in defence of these great principles of religious freedom. I am the purchaser of the property which was taken from you by the Vicar of Preston. Gentlemen, my own opinion is that as you are not members of the Church of England, as you have not received the sacrament from any of her ministers, as you do not communicate at any of her altars, those seizures were made upon you unlawfully, and, I believe, immorally. (Hear, hear.) Gentlemen, I ask you to accept two hams and a barometer. (Loud applause.) I have obtained them without reproach—you may take them without shame. All I ask of you, gentlemen, is, that as you are true to-night, so you will be true in the future, to those great principles which you this evening truly represent; and if others in Preston follow your example the day of religious freedom for which we pray is near at hand. (Loud applause.)

Mr. SMALLEY and Mr. SIMPSON then addressed the meeting amid much applause, and were followed by the Rev. H. J. Martyn and Mr. Kearley, of Manchester, agent of the Liberation Society, Mr. J. Gregg, son, and the Rev. G. Kiddy.

The Rev. J. BRIGGS said that an Anti-Easter-dues Association had been formed, and many members enrolled. At the close of the meeting several persons enrolled their names.

In referring to the meeting the *Guardian* says:—

A more united and enthusiastic company than that which then assembled has seldom met within the walls of the Corn Exchange; and very rarely have such a large number of speakers been so completely united in sentiment, and so firm in the expression of their opinions, as were the gentlemen who occupied the platform on that occasion. All doubt as to the state of public feeling on the matter is now set at rest, and if the vicar contemplates any further legal "robbery for burnt offering," he must be aware that he will have to

make the attempt in the face of an opposition against which his utmost efforts will be useless. We do not, however, believe that he will thus seek any longer to bring contempt upon his sacred calling, and the religion which he professes.

Anxious for the honour of the Church of England, and for the peace of the town of Preston, we trust that we have heard the last of Easter-due seizures, and of organised attempts to create disturbances at meetings. Such abominations are very properly denounced by Englishmen when they are perpetrated in foreign countries; let our own hands be clean, and our own characters be free from reproach.

The very able speech of the Rev. John Briggs places him at once in the front rank among other local orators. It conclusively showed what Easter-dues originally were, and from whom Easter-dues may be lawfully demanded. The other speakers enforced the truths of that religious liberty which ought to be acknowledged and acted on by all who live amidst the scenes and circumstances of the nineteenth century. In some respects the most telling addresses were those of the two Catholics who spoke. Plainly and forcibly did they acknowledge the obligations which their co-religionists owed to the Liberal party; while they denounced, with equal plainness and force, the wrongs inflicted upon them by the Conservatives; the Irish Church was particularly and appropriately adverted to.

The Vicar of Preston, the Rev. Canon Parr, has intimated his intention of withdrawing from the Preston Auxiliary Bible Society. His reasons for this course are stated in the following letter:—

The Vicarage, Preston, 22nd February, 1865.—Gentlemen,—The declared hostility of the leaders of Dissent to the constitution of the country in Church and State; the objects they avowedly pursue, and the measures they adopt to attain those objects, have rendered it impossible, in my judgment, for the clergy and people of the Church of England any longer to act with them in matters of religion, without a sacrifice of principle and an abandonment of duty. I feel, therefore, compelled to retire from my connection with the Preston Auxiliary Bible Society, as at present constituted. It is open to the members of the Church of England to institute their own local agency for the same purpose.—I remain, gentlemen, your faithful servant, J. OWEN PARR.—The Secretaries of the Preston Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday night the twentieth annual meeting of the members and friends of this institution was held at Exeter Hall, and, notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather, the great hall was filled by a crowded and highly attentive auditory, composed mostly of the young people attached to the many houses of business throughout the metropolis. The Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., occupied the chair, and, after the Divine blessing had been invoked upon the proceedings by the Rev. T. H. Tarlton,

Mr. Wm. EDWYN SHIPTON, the secretary of the society, read an abstract of the report for the year 1864. In spite of many difficulties and much opposition, the association had gone on increasing in usefulness, and now had the full confidence of all those who watched it and were acquainted with its work, and by their liberality sustained its operations. At the beginning of the last year there was a debt, the result of the small attendance at the lectures and other causes, amounting to 573*l.*, and to this had to be added the sum of 450*l.* for working expenses; but the committee had the great satisfaction of stating that, owing to increased support and new sources of income, they were enabled to present an account up to the 31st December, showing a balance due to the treasurer of only 153*l.* This announcement was received with loud cheers, and was followed by an appeal to those present to wipe off at once the existing balance. Thanks were then rendered to those gentlemen who had been most active in procuring funds, special mention being made of Messrs. Bevan, George Williams, Samuel Morley, Copestake, Moore and Co., Leaf, Sons and Co., and others. Several letters were read from young men in City houses, giving an account of what they were doing in connection with the association, and several instances of good having been done by their efforts during the past year were recorded. The report closed by a reference to the death of Mr. George Hitchcock, expressing the gratitude of the association for the great services which he had rendered to it, and acknowledging the receipt of 200*l.*, which he had left to it in his will.

The Rev. W. B. MACKENZIE, M.A., of Holloway, delivered an earnest address on "To win souls to Christ the great end of Christian testimony."

Colonel ROWLANDSON followed with an address on "The personal witness of believing men to the truth of the Gospel, an agency specially adapted to the needs of the day."

The Rev. SAMUEL MARTIN, who was very warmly received, delivered an address on "The condition and circumstances of young men in great cities an urgent claim on the sympathies of the church."

He secured the sympathies of the audience by a touching allusion to the train of thought which had been awakened in his mind by hearing read in the report the words "twenty years ago"; reminding them that since the association was established, the stream of time had been carrying them all onwards, some towards the haven of everlasting rest, and others towards the whirlpool of endless disquiet. Those who, like their friend, Mr. Hitchcock, had risen on the wings of time, awakened no regret, but what of those who were being carried nearer to ruin?—

It matters little at what hour of the day
The Christian falls asleep. Death cannot come untimely
To him who is fit to die. The loss of this cold world
Is more of heaven. The briefer life,
The earlier immortality.

He did not like to have to speak from a text, but as he had had one given him, he was bound to do so. The

distance of young men in London from their homes was a subject in which he had taken a special interest, and, as the result of inquiries which he had made during a ministry in Westminster of twenty-three years, he had found that most of the young men in London came from the country. It must be remembered that it was not always a disadvantage to a young man to leave home. If he had a good home, then no separation could be more trying; but if the lad had a drunken, profligate, or infidel father, it was often the greatest blessing which could happen to him that he should be severed from his home, and for his own part he could say that he had often seen God in His Providence make children orphans in order to give them a religious education; the parents were standing in the way of the children being brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and God therefore removed them. Still, severance from home was a great trial, and involved great danger. What a melancholy thing it was to hear so many young men in London say, as they were obliged to do, that they had not a single friend in all London. Mr. Martin boldly and earnestly protested against the practice common in many London commercial houses, of calling a young man in just when it suited his employer's convenience, and dismissing him with an hour's notice, while even domestic servants demanded a month's notice or a month's wages. This sentiment was most enthusiastically cheered, the young men in the audience evidently having a very great feeling in the matter. Mr. Martin went on to say that young men in London were subject to many temptations through having a new sort of liberty which they did not always know how to use, and connecting with this their exhausting work, and their few opportunities of recreation, he was sure when he advocated their claims that he had a very strong case. He laid great stress on the fact that this association provided a place of resort in the week as well as religious services on Sundays. He considered the opening of the rooms for religious services to be of great importance, inasmuch as many young men attended places of worship a long way from their homes, and, but for the various rooms of the association being open, the inconvenience to which they would be put would be very great. He had sometimes thought of proposing the opening of the vestries of the various chapels for the use of such, but there were difficulties in the way of this being done, and the association seemed to meet the case. He did not consider that the young men had any claim on the money which was given to support the society. He maintained that, compared with many young professional men, and with many poor ministers and Scripture-readers, and so on, the young men in London houses were very well off; and he should not be satisfied till the association had become self-supporting. It was very sad to think that the bodily wants of the young men were often more looked after than their spiritual needs; but if the heart was right he had no fear as to the efforts that would be made in connection with the association.

A hymn was next sung and a collection made, amounting to between 40*l.* and 50*l.*; after which the Rev. CHARLES STOVEL spoke on "The lifting-up of Christ crucified the Divine means of attracting souls to him." Mr. Stovel referred to the circumstances under which he first became acquainted with the late Mr. Hitchcock, and paid a high tribute to his life and character.

The Rev. W. ARTHUR spoke very briefly on "The Gospel, the grand remedy for all human needs"; after which Mr. WILLIAMS proposed, and Mr. M'ARTHUR seconded, a vote of thanks to the chairman.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY, in returning thanks, said it would be very ungrateful on his part were he to make a long speech, and he would only say that the report which had been read was the very best which he had ever heard, and would go very far indeed to remove doubt and allay apprehensions. If the tone and temper of that meeting prevailed among the members, and they carried out the good advice which had been given them, he was sure they would have more and more reason to say that this association was a signal blessing from Almighty God, not only in this metropolis, but in every great town in the kingdom and the whole civilised world.

The doxology was then sung, and the proceedings terminated.

THE BAPTIST UNION AND ECCLESIASTICAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

The following circular is about to be issued to the ministers of Baptist churches:—

Dear Sir,—At the late meeting of the Baptist Union in Birmingham, it was resolved to petition the House of Commons for an inquiry into the character and influence of our national ecclesiastical establishments. The petition adopted by the Union is as follows:—

"The petition of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland assembled in session at Birmingham on the 12th and 13th days of October, 1864,

"Sheweth.—That your petitioners, representing upward of 2,000 congregations in the United Kingdom, are loyal subjects of her Majesty the Queen, and bear their full share of the burdens of the State.

"That your petitioners consider that they ought to be in a position of civil equality with all other classes of their fellow-subjects, and they acknowledge with gratitude that they have at various times been relieved from great civil and religious disabilities to which they and their forefathers were formerly subject.

"That your petitioners believe your honourable House has no adequate conception of the intolerance and pecuniary loss to which Nonconformists are still habitually subjected, owing to the predominance which unrighteous ecclesiastical laws give to one portion of her Majesty's subjects, and which are in direct contradiction to the great principles of civil and religious liberty.

"That your petitioners do not, however, chiefly complain of the injustice with which Nonconformists are treated. In their opinion the kingdom founded by Him whom they adore as King of kings and Lord of lords is immeasurably the most important institution on earth, the corruption of that kingdom one of the greatest of existing evils, and the subjection of Christian churches to the control of the State the surest way of producing that corruption.

"That your petitioners wish it to be distinctly under-

stood that they do not seek the overthrow of any Church, but long for the purity and prosperity of all Churches; and desire as essential to their purity and prosperity, that they should not receive pecuniary support from the State, and that in spiritual things they should be wholly independent of State patronage and control.

"That your petitioners rejoice that there is a growing conviction among thoughtful men that the entire separation of things ecclesiastical from the sphere of statesmanship would be an inestimable blessing, not only to our own country, but to the world.

"That your petitioners therefore pray your honourable House to take such steps, as in its wisdom it may think best, for inquiries whether our national ecclesiastical establishments be not unjust and injurious.

"And your petitioners will ever pray, &c."

At the time of the Autumnal Meeting it was not deemed wise to recommend general petitions, because of a rumour then prevalent of an approaching dissolution of Parliament. This rumour having died away, a meeting of the committee of the Union was called in London on the 7th day of December last, at which they resolved to advise their constituents and the Baptist churches generally to send petitions immediately on the commencement of the next session. We hope this step will commend itself to your judgment, and secure your hearty and prompt co-operation.

The reasons for adopting this course of action appear to the committee to be obvious and urgent. On the one hand, you cannot but be familiar with the practical annoyances and disadvantages to which Nonconformists in this country are exposed, nor reluctant to co-operate in the only mode by which this flagrant injustice can be redressed.

On the other hand, we must suppose you to feel still more deeply the injury inflicted on religion by its being first largely endowed by the State, and then necessarily subjected to the control of statesmen.

That you will be ready therefore to co-operate with the Committee in their present appeal to the legislature we cannot but confidently assume. And we request you particularly to observe that all which the petition of the Union asks is inquiry, a prayer to which our opponents ought not to object; while inquiry, if fairly conducted, cannot fail to constitute the first step in a course of effectual and invaluable reform.

Assured of your cordial and prompt co-operation, we enclose a form of petition for your adoption, unless—which we recommend—you should prefer one of your own. Each petition must have some signatures on the first sheet. When signed, petitions should be sent to your own representatives, if convenient; they will go postage free, if open at the ends and written upon, "Petition to Parliament." Otherwise they may be sent by book-post, paid, to the Secretary of the Baptist Union, 33, Moorgate-street, London.

Earnestly entreating you to bring this communication before your friends in such a way as you may deem most judicious.

We are, dear Sir, on behalf of the Committee,
Yours very truly,

ABOLITION OF TESTS IN THE DURHAM UNIVERSITY.—The University of Durham has set an example of which the north of England ought to be proud, and Oxford and Cambridge ashamed. The dean and chapter and the other managers of the Durham Institution have opened its gates to all comers, without any test of adhesion to the Church of England, except so far as the study of theology is concerned. This is an excellent portent in the northern sky.—*Gateshead Observer*.

THE DISTRICT PARISHES QUESTION.—The Attorney-General, in a letter to Mr. E. Hereford, Manchester, says it is not his intention to bring forward any measure similar to the Church-building and New Parishes Bill this session.

LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—The usual missionary sermon at Surrey Chapel will be preached on Wednesday, May 10th, by the Rev. Dr. Alexander, of Edinburgh. The Hon. Arthur Kinnaid, M.P., will preside at the annual meeting on the following day at Exeter Hall.

LADY HERBERT AND THE ROMISH CHURCH.—It is again confidently asserted that Lady Herbert of Lea has formally given in her adhesion to the Romish Church. If this be really the case, as there is too much reason to believe, it will be another instance of the danger of tampering with Romanism, and trifling with Sacerdotalism, and indulging in Romanistic ritualism and Romanistic architecture. Her ladyship was left by Lord Herbert sole guardian of her son, the young Earl of Pembroke, who is now in his fifteenth year, and living abroad with his mother.—*Record*.

NEW MISSIONARY SHIP.—We are happy to inform our readers that the directors of the London Missionary Society, after a careful consideration of the entire case, have entered into an engagement with one of the most respectable shipbuilders in the north for building a new missionary ship. They trust that, when completed, the John Williams will be equal, in some respects superior, to her predecessor; and, although they cannot entertain the hope that she will be ready for sea until nearly the end of the year, yet the advantages to be secured will be an ample compensation for the delay.—*Missionary Chronicle*.

TESTIMONIAL TO DR. GUTHRIE.—About six months ago Dr. Guthrie, the celebrated preacher and philanthropist, intimated the resignation of his pastoral charge in Free St. John's, Edinburgh, owing to the state of his health. In testimony of his eminent public services, particularly as the founder of the Edinburgh Original Ragged-school, it was resolved to institute a public subscription for a testimonial. Above 5,000*l.* was contributed by 774 subscribers, and last week the testimonial was presented by the Lord Provost in presence of a crowded assemblage. The surplus over 5,000*l.* enabled the committee, through Lord Ardmillan, to present Mrs. Guthrie with a silver tea-service, value 125*l.* The inscription

on the silver plate bore that the testimonial was contributed on the rev. Doctor's retirement from public life "by a large number of subscribers of all classes and parties and different religious denominations, in token of their admiration and regard for his personal worth, his distinguished endowments as a preacher of the Gospel, and his inestimable services as a large-hearted Christian philanthropist."

HOW CONVOCATION WAS PROLOGUED.—In the course of some remarks on the proceedings of Convocation in the *Bury Post* we read:—"Dr. Jebb, however, was made sensible of the subordination of the body (Lower House) as things are at present, by having, on Friday evening, an elaborate speech ranging over the history of the Church from the earliest times abruptly cut short by the arrival of a messenger from the Archbishop resulting in instantaneous prorogation. The rev. doctor asked the Prolocutor in painfully pathetic tones whether his Grace was aware that his (Dr. Jebb's) address was proceeding, but a shake of the head appeared to be the only response, and the meaning of it was seen in the sudden dispersion of the House amid the formal reading by an official of the minutes of the last four days' sittings."

LORD STANLEY ON THE OPEN-CHURCH SYSTEM.—At the meeting of the Liverpool and Birkenhead Open-Church Association, on Thursday, a letter was read from Lord Stanley, declining to take the chair at the meeting. His lordship says:—"My opinion on the principle which it is sought to advocate is not sufficiently decided to justify me in giving public support to your movement. I fully agree in the propriety of supplying in all churches, whether old or new, ample accommodation for those who cannot afford to pay for seats; but I am not, as at present advised, prepared to support the entire abolition of pew-rents, which in poorly endowed churches are the principal reliance of the minister. Experience only can show whether it is possible to rely, in the place of these, on a system of weekly collections, which I understand to be the substitute you desire to see adopted. Without further means of judging for myself on this point I am unwilling to take part in this controversy, which I still watch with interest."

ROMAN CATHOLIC SERVICES IN WORKHOUSES.—A memorial by some of the ratepayers is to be presented to the board of guardians of St. George, Hanover-square, at their meeting on Wednesday (to-day) expressing "surprise and regret that, in addition to numerous demands already granted, the board has expressed an intention of still further according to the requests of the priests of the Brompton Oratory, by giving permission for the reception or sitting up in the workhouse at Chelsea of a screen, to be used in carrying out the confessional as practised by the Romish Church." The memorialists urge that in the event of compliance with this and similar requests of the Romish priests, their Dissenting brethren will be placed in a very anomalous and unfair position; for instance, the Baptist has at least an equal right with the Romanist, and therefore an equal right to be supplied with the means of immersion as adopted in that communion, and other sects in a like degree be enabled to carry out their peculiar ministrations. They conclude by begging the board to reconsider and refuse its sanction to the matter complained of.

REMARKABLE COINCIDENCES.—"P." of Banbury sends the following to the *Examiner*:—"Presbyter Anglicanus," in your last impression, quotes from the *Guardian* what some people had regarded as a remarkable coincidence—

A clergyman, in a village in Berkshire, felt the shock of the earthquake on January 27, a little before four a.m.; he afterwards attended the church service, the first lessons of which contained the words: "There shall be earthquakes in divers places." This coincidence (he thinks) seems not unworthy of notice.

Will you allow me to give him another remarkable coincidence? In the month of April, 1853, an attempt was made to impose a Church-rate on the parish of Banbury. The then vicar took an active part in the contest, and his leading opponent was a Mr. Doeg, a not very common name. The Church party was defeated on a poll. If the vicar had chanced to read the evening service for the day on which the contest began, the 7th of April, he would have read for the first lesson from 1 Sam. xxii. 18, as follows:—"And Doeg, the Edomite, turned and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day four score and five persons that did wear a linen ephod." The Vicar might have been forewarned if not fore-armed. No attempt to enforce a Church-rate in Banbury has been made since that time. Doeg certainly did not slay the priests, but he slew the rate."

CONGRESS AND ITS CHAPLAINS.—The Rev. William Henry Channing, Chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives, seeing in the *New York Independent* the statement that he had not invited ministers of other denominations than his own (Unitarian) to preach before Congress, addressed a letter to that paper, in which he says:—"I have invited ministers of all leading communions in the United States—Catholic, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Congregationalist, Baptist, Methodist, &c.—to conduct the services on Sundays and week-days in the Hall. Never, in one single instance, have I asked the question, even in my own mind, of what 'belief' a minister was. My sole test has been loyalty to the nation, and fidelity to freedom. At various times the House has been opened with prayer by a Baptist, a Methodist, a Congregationalist, a Presbyterian, and a Dutch Reformed doctor of divinity. It had been my desire, while chaplain, to invite a woman to preach in the House; and the visit of Mrs. Rachel Rowland, a minister among the orthodox Friends of Massachusetts, enabled me, last Sunday,

to gratify this wish. It is my earnest desire, also, to welcome as my peer, in that meeting-place of a free people, some coloured minister, before my brief term of service closes." Mr. Channing's intention has, it seems, been accomplished. We learn by the last mail that the Rev. H. Garnett, a negro preacher, delivered a sermon, by request, in the American House of Representatives, on Sunday, the 12th.

THE OXFORD MIDDLE CLASS EXAMINATIONS AND RELIGIOUS TEACHING.—In a Congregation on Thursday, a form of statute relating to the Oxford middle-class examinations was promulgated, and called forth a very animated discussion, the religious question being again the difficulty. The present statute only continues in force this year, and in the absence of a new statute being carried by Congregation and Convocation, the examinations would cease. The disposition of the speakers who took part in the debate was favourable to the continuance of the system of the local examinations, although different views were held with regard to the details of the measure. Among the amendments put in, the most important was that of Professor Smith, of Balliol, who proposed that the words "conscientia causa," now contained in the clauses relating to religion, should be expunged so as to place the religious examination on a more satisfactory footing. The Rev. Dr. Pusey supported the statute in the present form, but the Master of Balliol, the Reverend Dr. Scott, was not favourable to it, and likewise said it did not meet with the approval of the majority of the Middle-class Examination Delegates. Professor Burrows was for the statute as it stood, and Professor Conington complained of the obscurity of the wording of the statute generally, and suggested the propriety of putting the statute into English, so that there could be no mistake, a suggestion which was opposed by Mr. Bramley, Magdalen, who said since his own college (Magdalen) statutes were put into English they had had more discussion relating to the proper construction of the statute than they had in the previous 400 years with the original Latin statutes of their founder. The amendments and suggestions of the house will have again to be considered by the Hebdomadal Council, who will bring forward another measure at the earliest opportunity.

INSPECTION OF CONVENTS.—On Friday night a meeting, convened under the auspices of the Protestant Alliance, was held in St. James's Hall, Piccadilly, to urge upon the public the necessity for a Governmental inspection of convents. The meeting, which was by no means overcrowded, was presided over by Mr. J. C. Colquhoun, who in opening the proceedings said they were not met to discuss the doctrines or errors of the Church of Rome, but simply to petition the legislature on the subject of a grievance which demanded redress at its hands. Under the English law monastic institutions were illegal, and though he did not ask that convents should be placed on the same footing, he did insist that the law ought to take care that they were not, as he was afraid they were, used for illegal purposes. To ensure that it was contended that they should be subjected to a periodical inspection; and he justified such an interference by referring to the practice of France, Prussia, Italy, and Austria. The Rev. Mr. McCaul moved the first resolution, as follows:—

That there has been a large and rapid increase in the number of conventual establishments in Britain, and at the present time there are 201 of these institutions in England and Scotland, for females, containing, it is believed, some thousand inmates, most of whom are under an amount of constraint inconsistent with personal liberty, while others are unlawfully carried abroad, out of reach of English law. That it is therefore eminently desirable that Parliament should institute inquiry upon this subject, and that a petition be accordingly adopted to both Houses of Parliament.

The Rev. H. Seymour, of Bath, seconded the resolution, and dealt with the objection that the movement had sprung from a spirit of persecution, and reminded the meeting that within the last seventy-five years the three greatest Roman Catholic countries in Europe, viz., France, Spain, and Italy, had followed the example of England by abolishing monasteries. These institutions, he insisted, were alike opposed to the law of nature and the law of God, and he could not resist the conviction that they were too frequently supported because they afforded facilities for the accomplishment of improper, if not immoral ends. Mr. Seymour spoke for nearly an hour and a half, and was much cheered. The resolution was carried by acclamation, after which, on the motion of Dr. Davis, of the Tract Society, seconded by the Rev. Mr. Alexander, of Chelsea, thanks were voted to the press for the assistance it had given to the cause by its exposure of the recent cases, and to the chairman for his courtesy in the chair. The termination of the proceedings was marked by several loud bursts of cheers, indicating the hearty concurrence of the meeting in the object for which it had been convened.

THE REV. T. BINNEY ON THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND.—The Rev. T. Binney delivered a sermon to a large congregation on Sunday night at the Weigh House Chapel on the late Duke of Northumberland. Taking for his text the words "Hope in God"—which he said formed the motto of the House of Northumberland—he contrasted them with the inscription on the coffin of another great man who had but a few days since been borne to his last rest—"Pray for him." After giving a short exposition of the text, Mr. Binney said he wished to refer to the Duke as giving a good example of the proper stewardship of wealth, both in the spending and the giving away of money. The first thing the Duke took care to do was to get his money in a proper way. When he came into possession of his estate he found it in a very bad condition, and at once determined to improve it, but not having the

means then at his command, waited till he had accumulated sufficient money to carry out his plans. He then set to work improving his estate, his farms, and especially the labourers' cottages, thus improving the moral and social condition of the work-people by providing them with better accommodation than they had hitherto had. He also spent a vast amount of money, and so gave employment to men of taste and artistic skill, who, if they could not find a market among the rich, could not find one at all. It might be said that in all this he was only improving his own property, but it must be remembered that he was a childless man, and knew that all the estates, at his death, would go to a distant branch of the family; he only did it because it was right that it should be done. When his steward once urged him to enclose a portion of his land, and when told that it would be against his interest to do it, while it would be for the advantage of the public, he at once ordered it to be done. As to giving, the Duke was always most liberal in relieving physical, bodily, and spiritual distress, and was a great patron of art, science, education, antiquarian researches, discoveries, and everything which tended to the elevation of the people. Though a Churchman, he built several Presbyterian schools, and gave sites for several Methodist chapels. When a "middy," he gave 1,000*l.* for the benefit of some sailors who had been wrecked, and when, just before his death, he heard of the loss of the Stanley and the Percy, he said that if nobody else removed the rocks at the entrance to the Tyne upon which those vessels were wrecked, he would do it himself. Being a sailor, he took great interest in seafaring men, and was always devising measures for their benefit. Mr. Binney closed the sermon by earnestly appealing to the congregation for their sympathy with the duchess in her sorrow, reminding them she would now have to leave her home and all its associations—a hardship peculiar to widows among the upper classes, and to which many in humbler life were not subjected.

Religious Intelligence.

THE FREE CHURCHES OF LONDON AND CHRISTIAN WORK.

IV.

BLOOMSBURY CHAPEL AND ITS INSTITUTIONS.

Bloomsbury Chapel has no ancestry. It is innocent of 1662; it has not, for the best of all reasons, enjoyed the smile of royal dukes; its very birth was recorded in the *Nonconformist*. The founder, Sir Morton Peto, Bart., is still one of its deacons; the first pastor, the Rev. William Brook, continues his work, not only with unabated but increasing devotion. Perhaps among the many beneficent acts of Sir Morton, none yields him a more thorough satisfaction than the planting of a new Christian temple in the destitute parish of St. Giles's, and inducing his friend, then at Norwich, to take the oversight thereof. Bloomsbury Chapel was opened in 1848. Though the minister, and no doubt the majority of the church, are Baptists, all Christians are equally eligible to all church privileges, and we believe one or two of the deacons are not Baptists. Under Mr. Brock's auspices, and by the help of his untiring zeal, this cause has, with the Divine blessing, yearly gathered strength, till it has grown into one of the most extensive and successful centres of religious influence in the metropolis. Bloomsbury Chapel has nine deacons, and a church of 872 members, 110 of whom were received into fellowship during the past year. The congregations on Sunday are as large as the building will hold. To meet the convenience of the numerous members of the church, the Lord's Supper is observed once a week, and alternately at different times of the Sabbath. In addition to a week-night service on Monday, there is the novelty of a morning sermon in the chapel every Thursday, at eleven o'clock.

Freely admitting that the circumstances have been pre-eminently favourable, we could hardly select a better example of the success of the voluntary principle in the maintenance of religious institutions than Bloomsbury Chapel. In his yearly address to his church at the beginning of last year—an address mainly taken up with a manly vindication of Nonconformist principles and practice in reply to external attacks—Mr. Brock remarks:—"Have we been able, from the free-will offerings of the people, not only to sustain the ordinary operations of our ministry and worship, but also to lend a hand to the manifold necessities which are round about? Let the following statement afford the answer. For the maintenance of our own services we have raised 23,256*l.* For the propagation of the Gospel through our domestic and foreign missions and schools we have raised 13,024*l.* For the distressed and necessitous under various circumstances we have raised 6,953*l.* Upon an average, therefore, we have obtained from voluntary contributions not less than 2,882*l.* a year." During the year just closed a total of no less than 3,351*l.* for all purposes was subscribed by

the Bloomsbury Chapel congregation. An analysis of this large sum will show how liberal are the contributions for local missionary objects, as well as indicate the kind of agencies employed:—

SUMMARY.

	£	s.	d.
Foreign Mission Auxiliary	381	10	4
Ditto (special contributions last year)	341	2	9
Domestic Mission	526	19	2½
Mothers' Meeting	22	1	6
Missionary Working Party	18	11	5
Sick Poor Relief Society	106	8	9
Cheap Clothing Society	41	10	0
Maternal Society	26	14	4
Day Schools	114	4	9
Sunday Schools	66	12	6
Ragged Schools	157	10	0
Calcutta Native Schools	20	11	8
Young Men's Society for the Relief of the Poor	52	5	7
For Benevolent and Religious Societies unconnected with Bloomsbury Chapel:—			
Royal Free Hospital and Orthopaedic Hospital	71	7	8
Baptist Irish and Missionary Societies	36	12	10
Particular Baptist Fund	10	6	6
Orphan Working School	57	5	2
And, in addition, for the support of the ministry and for the general expenses of public worship	£1,300	0	0
Total	3,351	15	0

This statement of figures, dry as it may seem, is well worthy of examination. It furnishes additional evidence of the truth—if that were needed—that Christians who most liberally support foreign missions are the most zealous in contributing to home missions. Of the entire amount of subscriptions at Bloomsbury Chapel, nearly one third, or almost as much as goes to the support of the ministry and general expenses of public worship, is spent upon local missionary objects. The contributions to hospitals may be strictly included in this category—for the advantages of these philanthropic institutions are thus made the more available for the surrounding poor.

The extent of work represented by the £1,261. expended in local missionary enterprises cannot be expressed in figures—most of the agents being volunteers. Bloomsbury Chapel has three Sunday-schools—at the chapel, at Moor-street, and at Queen-street, the two latter in the Seven Dials district—with 732 scholars, instructed by some ninety teachers. They all assemble at Moor-street on Sunday morning for a special service conducted by the teachers and their friends. In connection with the schools are Bible-classes, occasional parents' meetings, and illustrated lectures. Last year some seventy pounds was deposited by the children in the Savings' Bank. Many of the scholars become teachers; many join the church—of which, says Mr. Brook, his Sunday-schools are "nurseries." There is also informal, but not the less valuable, Sunday-school work going on. The following specimen may furnish a hint to other churches:—

One of our number, a widow lady, has resorted to a method of usefulness which bids fair to accomplish great good. She invites to her house on Sunday afternoons the younger children of the neighbourhood who would not be sent to any Sunday-school, and associating them with her own little girl, imparts religious instruction to them in a way admirably adapted to bring them to the Saviour. The children are delighted to attend, and their parents are most grateful for the loving and sagacious attention which they receive.

Bloomsbury Chapel has very superior day-schools, which may be gathered from the single fact that they are to a large extent self-supporting. Experience has shown that the working classes, as a rule, never begrudge payment for a good education for their children. In this very parish of St. Giles's, as much as 227. was paid last year in "school pence" on behalf of the two hundred boys and girls under tuition. This suggestive fact needs no comment. Such an education is given in the Bloomsbury schools as will "fit the children for the stations in life which they will most probably occupy." And, we believe, the boys on leaving school are in great demand for apprentices, &c.

There are (says Mr. Brook) no schools like them anywhere about. They are entirely undenominational, no use being made of any catechism, or creed, or Church formulary whatever. No attendance at a particular place of worship on Sundays is insisted on. No reproach is cast, either directly or indirectly, upon the religious opinions or practices to which the children are accustomed when at home. At the same time, the Holy Scriptures are in constant and careful use, whilst prayer is daily offered up for the Divine blessing on all who are concerned. The character of the secular instruction varies according to the payments which the parents are able to make.

It ought here to be stated that within a few hundred yards of Bloomsbury Chapel there is in Broad-street a palatial-looking building, erected only a few years ago for National Schools, at a cost of from 9,000. to 10,000., one-half of which, at least,

came from the Committee of Council,—that is, from the public purse. They accommodate about 750 children—a lower class than are educated at Bloomsbury schools—who contribute not quite 300. in school pence. Last year these schools received about 460. from the Privy Council.

The usual work of the other agencies among the poor, would, for various reasons, merit notice did our space permit. The Maternal Society gave help last year to sixty-eight poor women. Of the value of mother's meetings in St. Giles's, Mr. Brook says:—

The presence of two or three Christian ladies in a company of sixty or seventy mothers, in order to superintend their needlework, to advise them under their various circumstances, to take kindly notice of their infant children, to read to them at intervals from some interesting volume, and to induce the feeling of general friendliness among different classes, can hardly be over-estimated, especially when it is remembered that the intercourse is pervaded with the evangelical element throughout.

These mothers, too, are encouraged to invest their smallest savings in a fund for obtaining clothing for their children and themselves at a reduced price.

The object of the "Cheap Clothing Society" is to induce economical habits, with a view to the saving of money to be expended in procuring blankets at half price, material for clothing, and garments ready made. The "Sick Poor Relief Society" expended last year more than a hundred pounds through eight visitors, besides availing themselves of the gratuitous and frequent services of an eminent physician, given for many years past, and enabling the destitute patients to obtain their medicine free of cost from benevolent tradesmen who attend the chapel. The "Young Men's Society for the Relief of the Poor" laid out nearly seventy pounds last year in meat, bread, and coal tickets, money gifts and small loans—the object of their bounty being the aged, childless, and unbefriended widows, struggling to support themselves and their families, and working men in ill health or out of employ. The honourable repayment of loans is specially noted. Several of the societies have their annual excursion to the country. In one case all the old people over sixty, who were moveable, were taken out for a "treat"—some having scarcely seen green fields before. These excursions are not paraded in the newspapers, but they illustrate the genuine sympathy of the Bloomsbury Chapel people for their poorer neighbours.

Mr. Brook's congregation also contribute their full share in means, and more than their proportionate quota of personal service, to the support of the refuges and ragged-schools for the parishes of St. George's and St. Giles's. In the former, situated in Great Queen-street, 170 homeless and destitute children—the waifs and strays of society—are provided with a home and industrial employment. For some, situations are found in this country; others emigrate to the colonies. Thus, in 1863, no less than eighty boys were sent out to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Queensland, and South Africa; in 1864, forty-five were forwarded to Australia. A considerable number of poor girls have been despatched to Canada—the lady who recently superintended the branch at Acton having twice crossed the Atlantic in charge of the young emigrants. Thus children who are first street Arabs, and bid fair to develop into criminals or paupers, are trained for a useful life at home, or in the colonies where labour is at a premium. In the four ragged-schools, the education is of course gratuitous, and on Sunday they give instruction to 900 children. Among the other agencies at work in them for the benefit of the neighbourhood are mothers' meetings, services for the poor, popular lectures, a working men's benefit club, penny banks, a youths' institute, and a Band of Hope. We need scarcely say that in a combined movement of this kind, the pastor of Bloomsbury Chapel is not the man to consent that his church shall accept an inferior position. Not, indeed, that it was ever suggested, for Mr. Brook and the two rectors have been, from the first, the vice-presidents of the institution. With a sense of perfect equality, the work is carried on harmoniously. The boys attend Bloomsbury Chapel in the morning; the girls worship at the parish church.

We come now to the speciality of Bloomsbury Chapel—its "Domestic Mission and District Visiting Association," which, it will be observed, cost last year the large sum of 527. Reserving till next week some sketch of a visit to St. Giles's, we may here record a few general facts to indicate the scope of this mission, which has a separate and numerous committee, presided over, of course, by the pastor, with its treasurer, secretary, and superintendent. The operations are carried on by the Rev. G. W. M'Cree, who has laboured in this densely-populated neighbourhood for the space of sixteen years; Mrs. Symons, a female missionary; and seventeen volunteer visitors.

Mr. Brook himself, we believe, gives the utmost of his personal service, as well as supervision, to this Christian enterprise; and his stalwart form and benevolent face are, next to the presence of his chief missionary, familiar and welcome to the poor denizens of the Seven Dials. The nucleus of the movement has long been the mission-hall in Moor-street, at the Five Dials. To this was last year added, at the other extremity of the district, in King-street, another hall, consisting of two commodious rooms, where the mission commenced its labours sixteen years ago. Both these buildings are used for similar purposes—Sunday and week-day services, lectures, temperance and prayer-meetings, meetings for mothers, needlework-classes for girls, a penny bank, and a Band of Hope. In the summer months there is out-door preaching on Sunday mornings on the Seven Dials, and last year an evening service was also begun. While Mr. M'Cree and Mrs. Symons go stately from house to house, visiting the ignorant, drunken, sick, and dying in the darkest and worst parts of the locality, and doing their best to alleviate great want and sorrow, a band of young men devote the Sunday afternoon to the "kitchens" of the common lodging-houses, where a portion of Scripture is read to the inmates, tracts distributed, and conversation carried on, ending with a few words of prayer. Oftentimes they are welcomed "with noticeable gratitude." In the evening the visitors more immediately connected with the King-street branch enter the "men's kitchens," and address the poor people who dwell there. By this agency from one hundred to one hundred and fifty men of a very low grade are once a week brought within sound of the Gospel.

CHRISTIAN WORK AT ELGIN-PLACE CHURCH, GLASGOW.

On Monday evening, Feb. 20, the annual social meeting of Elgin-place Church was held in the Queen's Rooms, Glasgow. The Rev. Henry Batchelor, the minister of the church, occupied the chair. The Revs. W. Pulsford and Dr. Joseph Brown (of Glasgow), and the Rev. W. B. Robertson (of Irvine) addressed the meeting. The Revs. D. Russell, A. G. Forbes, D. Johnstone, G. M'Callum, and A. Paterson (of Glasgow), and the Revs. R. Spence (of Dundee) and J. Renfrew (of Paisley) were on the platform. The statements of the chairman embraced an abstract of the yearly church reports, which is of sufficient general interest to be given in full, as an illustration of the vast Christian work that is being carried on by a flourishing Congregational church in Glasgow. Those of our readers who are familiar with such operations will be able to form some idea from the statement of the great amount of local missionary labour represented by it. Mr. Batchelor commenced by referring to the state of the church, and to the loss of Mrs. Wardlaw, the aged widow of the former venerated pastor of Elgin-place Church. The additions to the church during the past year had been 56; the losses by removals, 43. In the six years of Mr. Batchelor's pastorate 357 persons had been added to the church, at the rate of sixty annually. He then went on to state:—

Our Church Institutions come next in order. The Cowcaddens Mission Church, you know, is now an independent community. Still, as we retain some connection with it, you will not expect it to be passed over. The Rev. Andrew Paterson reports a gratifying state of prosperity. Thirty-five persons have been received into the fellowship during the year. By removals, and by purging the list of nominal members, they have lost 25; leaving an actual increase of ten. The number at present on the church roll is ninety. The people have raised among themselves 70. in the course of the year. About a dozen persons, besides the deacons, are engaged in district visitation and tract distribution. We congratulate them on their energy and success, and heartily wish them God-speed in the future.

After prolonged deliberation, our Home Mission Committee resolved to originate a new mission station in Bishop-street, Anderston. A hall was procured by the committee, and opened for worship by the pastor, on Sabbath, the 9th of October. The committee rejoice that they have obtained the efficient services of Mr. John M'Munn, as missionary. He preaches twice on the Sabbath; holds a prayer-meeting on Thursday evenings, and visits in the district during the week. A numerous staff of gentlemen from the church visit the neighbourhood, and co-operate with the missionary. I am happy to add, that a number of ladies from the church, who formerly engaged at similar work at Cowcaddens, are about to transfer their labours to the new mission station at Anderston. The committee are much gratified by the success hitherto of this fresh mission.

The Dovehill day-school is still under the care of our friend Mr. John Wilkie. Its affairs are in a very prosperous condition. The number on the roll on the 31st of December last, was 209, with an average attendance of 189. At the same date there were thirty-three children on the free list. Miss M'Allister has, as heretofore, the care of the industrial department, which she discharges with great efficiency and credit.

The Savings' Banks at Cowcaddens and Dovehill, are both in a very flourishing condition. The number of open accounts at Cowcaddens is 500, the amount at the credit of the depositors 55. 11s. 3d. During the past year 177. have been deposited, and 171. withdrawn besides transfers to the National Security Savings' Bank. At Dovehill the open accounts are 369; of which 252 have been opened in 1864. The amount at the credit of the depositors is 21. 10s. 6d.

The Female Benevolent Society and the Dorcas Society have been fulfilling their beneficent duties as in former

years. The ladies report prosperity in this department. A change of operations has been made in the Female Benevolent Society, to give greater efficiency to its labours. Fifty-three persons have been visited by this society in the year, and weekly or fortnightly supplies of food have been distributed.

We have a Bible-woman employed in the Cowcaddens. Her labours are various—spiritual, social, and sanitary. Some ladies in the church co-operate with her. A staff of ladies will still continue to fulfil the duties of a Ladies' Visiting Society in Cowcaddens. The ladies rent a room in William-street, Cowcaddens, and conduct Sabbath and week-day meetings of different kinds, by which they hope to effect much good.

The Sabbath-school Society's report is very satisfactory and encouraging. The schools are—our congregational school, Stewart-street School, Milton Arcade School, Rotten-row School, Religious Institution Rooms Classes, Great Dovehill School, Parkhead School. To these we have now to add the school lately opened in connection with Bishop-street mission station, which has commenced with sixty children, a staff of new teachers, and a superintendent. Senior classes are conducted by Mr. W. P. Paton, Mr. Henry, and Mr. Alexander. The secretary reports universal prosperity. There is an increase in the year of nine teachers and forty-six scholars. The total number of teachers is 123, and of scholars 1,220. Of these teachers, only eighty-three belong directly to Elgin-place Church, and of the scholars 832 only are strictly our own. Forty of the teachers and 388 of the scholars are connected with Wardlaw Church, Bellegrave-street, under the pastorate of the Rev. Gilbert McCallum. We rejoice that they have opened their new church, and wish for them all prosperity and happiness.

You will hear with gratitude, that four of the scholars have become church-members during the year, and five have become teachers. The number of volumes in all the school libraries is 817. The scholars have collected during the year, 43*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*

The male and female Bible classes, which I conduct myself on alternate Thursdays, I would sincerely trust are deriving benefit from our New Testament studies. I have nothing to report beyond the fact, that we steadily keep at our work.

The Elgin-place Church Literary Institute has held its session during the winter months, which is still in progress. I believe that they have developed the abilities of the members, and contributed to their undoubted profit.

The Congregational Library contains a large number of very good books. There are at present 2,500 volumes.

The report of the Church Treasurer is good, but he would like it to be a little better. In the Church Treasurer's department the income during the year has fallen somewhat short of the expenditure. By an increase in the ordinary collections you will enable him to announce on another year, a clear balance, or one in his favour, which is your own. When the printed reports are in your possession, I hope that you will study this section of our statistics with special assiduity, and with personal application.

The Religious Purposes Society is the last organisation which I have to mention—last not least. The columns of this society represent our subscriptions and collections for religious and philanthropic objects for all kinds. We look on this society very much as the test of our health and vitality.

Last year our Religious Purposes Society's returns were 50*l.* above the previous year. I am glad to record that they are 200*l.* this year more than they were last.

Our gross income this year, from all sources and for all purposes, is 2,947*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*, that is, from February, 1864, to February, 1865. This includes, of course, the 500*l.* collection for the floating debt last February. The analysis of this sum is 1,242*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.* per Treasurer of Religious Purposes Society; 1,205*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* per Church Treasurer, including seat rents, collections, &c., and 500*l.* for floating debt on chapel. Through the deficit which I have already mentioned, only about 400*l.* have been applied to the liquidation of the debt.

The meeting was an exceedingly gratifying one to all interested in the welfare of the church.

STOCKPORT.—The corner-stone of another of the many handsome Congregational churches to be finished in the neighbourhood of Manchester by September, according to arrangements made during the Bicentenary year, was laid on Wednesday in Wellington-road, Stockport, by Mr. James Sidebottom, of Manchester. The building, designed by Messrs. Speakman and Charlesworth, architects, Manchester, will be an elegant structure in the early decorated Gothic style. It will be a conspicuous ornament of the suburbs in which it will be erected, and its tall tower and spire over the north-west porch will be seen for a long distance, as the site is upon an eminence. Considerable improvements and novelties will be made in the fitting up of the interior, one very welcome feature being an arrangement of ceiling which will prevent the draughts of which those who are accustomed to sit in open-roofed places of worship have had painful experience. Convenient open seats will be used, and they are intended to afford comfortable accommodation for 900 persons. This will make the fifth Congregational chapel in Stockport. The Rev. A. Clark is the pastor. The ceremony on Wednesday took place in the afternoon at two o'clock, the members of the Orchard-street congregation and other friends of the new enterprise met at the schools, whence they walked in procession to the site of the new church. The Rev. A. Clark was joined by Mr. James Sidebottom, Mr. Alderman Higginbotham, the Rev. Professor Newth, the Rev. G. W. Conder, of Manchester, and other ministers and gentlemen, in heading the procession. They were followed by a large number of ladies, and the Sunday-schoolers brought up the rear. A large gathering of spectators surrounded the site. After singing, the reading of a portion of Scripture, and prayer, Mr. Alderman Higginbotham, as the representative of the building committee, presented to Mr. Sidebottom a silver trowel and a mallet, suitably inscribed. Mr. Sidebottom then delivered a brief address. The Rev. Mr. Clark said he was

grateful for the interest manifested in the project, and proceeded to explain the circumstances under which it originated. The Orchard-street congregation having taken up the project heartily, the Manchester committee voted them 1,000*l.* Large local subscriptions were spontaneously offered; and the late Mr. Kershaw, a name to be mentioned in Stockport with the deepest respect—(Hear, hear)—having at first reserved 250*l.* from the Manchester committee for any claim Stockport might make, on receiving a statement of the facts of the case, handsomely offered an additional 200*l.* Their chairman handsomely promised 200*l.*; many subscriptions of 50*l.* were volunteered; and altogether 2,979*l.* had been promised. The land had cost 500*l.*, and the chapel was to cost 4,500*l.*, so that 2,000*l.* had yet to be raised. With regard to the Orchard-street Chapel, it was contemplated that it should be maintained as a mission chapel; and the chairman had offered 10*l.* a-year towards keeping it open as such. The company afterwards separated. In the evening a tea-meeting, followed by a public meeting, was held in the Mechanics' Institution, which was crowded. Mr. Sidebottom took the chair. —Alderman Higginbotham read letters from Mr. Hadfield, M.P., Mr. Hugh Mason, and others, regretting their absence, and wishing success to the undertaking; and from Mr. Edward W. Watkin, M.P., who said he had to preside at a business meeting where he could not provide a substitute, and added—“If you will accept, as a little testimony of goodwill and sympathy from a Churchman, the sum of 10*l.*, I should send it you with pleasure, and with every hope for the success of your exertions.”—The Rev. J. G. Rogers, B.A., the Rev. J. Thornton, of the Wickliffe Chapel, the Rev. R. M. Davies, of Oldham, the Rev. A. Wilson, of Hanover Chapel, and the Rev. J. Pywell, also addressed the meeting.

ARUNDEL-SQUARE CHAPEL, BARNESBURY.—The second anniversary services in connection with this place of worship were commenced on Thursday, Feb. 9, when a sermon was preached at noon, to an overflowing congregation, by the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon. On Lord's-day, the 12th, the Rev. Theo. Lessey, minister of the chapel, preached morning and evening; and on the following Sunday, the 19th, Mr. Thomas Cooper occupied the pulpit. The collections at the various services on behalf of the building fund amounted to 97*l.* Great prosperity has marked the brief history of this cause under the ministrations of Mr. Lessey, assisted by a band of earnest and devoted fellow-workers. Special efforts are being put forth by the church and congregation to diminish still further the heavy debt yet remaining to be liquidated on the building.

CAMBERWELL GREEN CHAPEL HOME MISSION.—In connection with the above society a writing and ciphering class and a reading-room and library have been commenced in Waterloo-street schoolroom every Monday evening at eight o'clock, where working men and women from nineteen to ninety years of age can be enrolled by paying an entrance fee of 2*d.* the first night, and one halfpenny per night afterwards, which includes all the above advantages. The hon. sec., Mr. R. W. Reid, will be very glad to receive any donation of books for the library, or periodicals for the reading-room, and will acknowledge the same on receipt. Divine service is held in the room for the working classes every Sunday evening at half-past six, and lectures on various popular subjects every Thursday evening, and Band of Hope every alternate Tuesday at six, and a temperance meeting every Wednesday at eight, and a cottage prayer-meeting at No. 2, Cork-street, every Tuesday evening at eight. Any donations of books, &c., will be very acceptable if sent to Mr. R. W. Reid, 2, Geneva-cottages, Leipsic-road, Camberwell.

TOOTING.—The annual meeting of the Congregational Church, Tooting, was held on Wednesday evening, the 22nd. Interesting reports of the various societies connected with the church were given by Messrs. Hunt and Jones (Mr. Bignold being absent through sickness). At the close it was found that all the treasurers had a balance in hand. The pastor, the Rev. W. Anderson, said the increase of the church had been very satisfactory; more than half of the present members had been added during the past three years and a half.

BRADFORD, YORKSHIRE.—A special public service was held at Salem Chapel, Bradford, Yorkshire, on the 8th inst., to recognise the Rev. Josiah Andrews, late pastor of the Congregational Church, Kingswood, Gloucestershire, as assistant minister of that church, and the branch at Spinkwell. The Rev. J. G. Miall, pastor, presided, and amongst the ministers present to welcome Mr. Andrews, were the Revs. D. Fraser, LL.D.; W. C. Shearer, M.A., of Airedale College; A. Russell, M.A.; W. Kingsland; T. T. Waterman, B.A.; H. Dowson (Baptist); G. White; T. Roberts; J. Aston, of Ecclehill; J. Innes, of Wibsey; and E. Ollerenshaw, of Windhill. The Rev. A. Russell, M.A., and the Rev. J. Innes, conducted the introductory devotional exercises. The Rev. H. Dowson read suitable portions of Scripture. The chairman then briefly narrated some of the circumstances which had led the church, by a most cordial and unanimous vote, to invite Mr. Andrews to become the assistant minister, with a view to his specially labouring at Spinkwell. Mr. Hunton, one of the deacons and secretary of the church, having read a portion of the church's call to Mr. Andrews, the rev. gentleman addressed the church and congregation, and formally accepted the invitation. The chairman having extended to Mr. Andrews the right hand of fellowship, in his own name and in the name of the church and of his ministerial brethren, gave him a most hearty welcome to Bradford, and proceeded to offer the recognition prayer, which was most

fraternal and appropriate. The Rev. W. Kingsland next delivered a short address on “The duties and responsibilities of a Christian minister.” At the close of the address, which was one of much importance, Mr. Kingsland expressed an earnest desire that the relation which had been formed between that church and their brother whom they welcomed amongst them on that occasion, might be conducive of great good to them and to the town, and might long continue. The Rev. Dr. Fraser having given Mr. Andrews a cordial welcome, addressed the meeting on “Church-members co-labourers with ministers,” in the elucidation of which he sought to show what church-members really were, and what they were expected to do. The Rev. T. T. Waterman, B.A., after uttering words of hearty welcome to Mr. Andrews, devoted a few remarks to the subject of “The duty of extending the Gospel among the outlying populations of our large towns,” particularly adapting his remarks to the town of Bradford. The Revs. W. C. Shearer, M.A., G. White, T. Roberts, J. Aston, and E. Ollerenshaw, also took part in the exercises of the evening, all heartily uniting in the welcome accorded to the new minister of the church and town. The congregation was large, and the meeting, which was of a very interesting character, closed with the benediction, pronounced by the chairman.

INAUGURATION OF THE RHYL BRITISH SCHOOLS.—On Thursday last an event of great importance to the town of Rhyl—the formal opening of the new British Schools in Vale-road—was celebrated by a tea-meeting and a bazaar, the former being held in the assembly-rooms of the new Baptist chapel, Sussex-street, and the former in the schoolrooms of the institution. The schools as now finished are worthy of high place amongst educational buildings. They are built in the modern style of architecture, the front being faced with Queensferry bricks, and the dressings are of stone and coloured bricks. There are two schools, mixed and an infants' school. The mixed school consists of two rooms opening into each other, the length being about 39 feet by 18 feet wide each. The infants' school is 27 feet long by 18 feet wide. There are also class-rooms, lobbies, cloak-room, and lavatories. The whole institution is fitted up on the most improved principle, and forms one of the cheapest, most comfortable, and complete school buildings in North Wales. They are built to accommodate 230 children, say 60 infants, and 170 boys and girls. The land was given by W. Shipley Conwy, Esq., and the cost of erection is about 750*l.* Mr. F. D. Johnson, of Waterloo-street, Birmingham, was the architect, who, in this instance, as, indeed, in all he has done, has won for himself great credit. Much praise is likewise due to the worthy builder, Mr. J. Rhyddwen Jones, of Rhyl, for the admirable manner in which he has completed the undertaking, the arrangements and workmanship throughout being all that could be wished for.—*Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald.*

ZION CHAPEL, ATTERCLIFFE.—On Tuesday evening the Rev. J. Parsons preached an impressive sermon on the occasion of the second anniversary of the opening of this new chapel, when 25*l.* were collected. And on Wednesday evening a tea-meeting was held to celebrate the extinction of the debt. There was a large attendance, and after tea the pastor presided, and gave some account of the steps which had led to the determination to build the chapel on a larger scale, and of the indications of the Divine hand in the matter. Mr. Giles gave a financial statement, so that it might be known in what position they were, and how they had managed to gain their present standpoint. The original plan was for a chapel, to cost 2,000*l.*, a sum which, after much thought, they believed themselves able to raise. When, however, it was finished, the cost was found to be exceeded by one-half, and, as there was no other course open, they set themselves to raise it. By the first anniversary, over 2,000*l.* had been secured, and measures were taken to liquidate the remainder. Mr. Calvert undertook to get or give 100*l.* Another most munificent friend, who had already contributed 100*l.*, made a like promise, while others engaged to give 10*l.*, and others smaller sums, all within the year. The young people of the congregation, and the children of the Sunday-school, banded together to contribute according to their power, and of the 130*l.* promised, 40*l.* was contributed by the children alone, independently of that which was given by the senior classes. Nearly all these voluntarily-assumed engagements had been fulfilled, and, as the result, he had the satisfaction of making the statement of the evening—namely, that the consummation which they had so ardently sought was virtually attained—the debt on the chapel was wiped off. (Prolonged applause.) The greater part of 1,000*l.* raised this year (i.e., 850*l.*) had come from their own people, and illustrated how much might be done by little and little, and persevering effort. Francis Hoole, Esq., was gratefully mentioned as giving 50*l.* to the original chapel fund. The Rev. J. Calvert expressed the thanks of the committee to the ladies who had so generously aided in this work—sixty-five trays had been given. The Rev. J. P. Gledstone, after some introductory remarks, avowed his admiration of the courage which the undertaking evinced. The enterprise and zeal with which they had addressed themselves to the work was worthy of all commendation, as also were the skill and foresight. He trusted the confidence in God and the faithful working out of their duty by the Attercliffe church, would be a lesson and an inspiration to other churches. Mr. Fulford, as the superintendent of the Sunday-school, detailed the manner in which the children had come forward to raise 40*l.*, which had been increased to 45*l.* by a former teacher, now in America. The Rev. H. Tarrant, in a lively and

telling speech, inculcated several lessons which were taught by the Zion Chapel movement, and expressed his warmest congratulations on the success which the evening commemorated.—*Abridged from the Sheffield Independent.*

PRESENTATION TO THE REV. A. A. REES, OF SUNDERLAND.—On Wednesday evening, Feb. 22nd, a meeting of the members of the church worshipping in Bethesda Chapel, Tatham-street, Sunderland, was held in the chapel, for the purpose of celebrating the fiftieth birthday of their pastor, the Rev. A. A. Rees, and also the completion of nearly a quarter of a century of his labours as a Christian minister in this town. Tea was provided in the body of the chapel by a number of the members of the church, and a numerous company partook of the repast. Mr. Corthay, one of the elders, occupied the chair; and Mr. Miller, another elder, in a brief but appropriate and kind speech referred to the time during which Mr. Rees had laboured there, and the obligations which many present were under to him for his spiritual instructions. He then presented Mr. Rees with a purse containing 184*l.* 3*s.* The announcement of the amount was received with loud applause. The Rev. A. A. Rees, in the course of his address in reply, said the occasion was a very affecting one, and required considerable nerve to go through; but being somewhat of an "iron-clad" he hoped to be able to endure it. He should give them a short discourse under three heads, namely, the occasion, itself, the presentation, and the presenters. The occasion was the jubilee of his life, and he had great reason to thank God that he had arrived at that period of his existence in health of body and peace of mind. That under ordinary circumstances would have been a cause of thankfulness to God for His mercies: but when he considered the peculiarity of his position; how isolated he had stood on account of his separation from the Established Church, he regarded it as a very signal mercy, for which he was more especially bound to be thankful, that he had been preserved during nearly a quarter of a century in Sunderland without any serious failure. He thanked them heartily for this manifestation of kind feeling; he thanked the officers for proposing it, the church for so unanimously responding to it, and very especially those who had taken most trouble about it, not excluding of course the members who had given the tables. He thanked also the resident ministers of the town for their attendance on the occasion. The Rev. W. Shillito looked upon that meeting as a refutation of the slander thrown out against the minister of voluntary churches, that, "since they lived to please, they must please to live," implying that, from his relation to his church, the Dissenting minister dare not be faithful, nor declare the whole counsel of God. Whatever Mr. Rees' ministry was, and they knew its excellencies better than he did, he believed he had always been faithful, for he understood that Mr. Rees rebuked not only the vices but even the foibles of society, and that he often gave hard hits. He trusted that the evening of his life might be long and calm, and that its soft light might be exchanged for the splendours of immortality. (Loud applause.) The following gentlemen also took part in the proceedings of the evening—*Revs.* J. Everett, H. Angus, J. Parker, J. Mathison, J. Geikie, J. Elrick, *Messrs.* Chapman, Turnbull, Lax, Gravert, and Iley.

Correspondence.

LANCASHIRE INDEPENDENT COLLEGE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I have read with much interest in your last two numbers, two letters on Lancashire Independent College, one signed "B," the other by the Rev. Mr. Gwyther. Will you allow me to offer a remark or two on this subject? I infer that Mr. Rogers was not altogether indisposed to retain his connection with the College, from the statement that he "expressed his willingness to remain if arrangements could be made to take either a part or the whole of his present duties without residence." I infer that the failure of this scheme arose from its "becoming manifest that the fourth chair could not be re-established on the basis proposed," because some members of the committee adhered to the "principle of three chairs." Had this been restored, then, I gather from the report, it would have retained for the College and the churches the services of a man (I quote the words of Mr. Paton, in last week's paper) of unequalled qualifications as a philosophical and religious teacher; by its non-restoration not only are these lost, but the old burden is still imposed on the present staff. And for this double loss no amount of "better support" to any or all the chairs can atone.

And supposing the difficulty was partly pecuniary, would not an open avowal of the evil consequences have been the best means of securing the support of the constituents? Nothing could have had more influence to induce them to restore the fourth chair than the alternative of losing the services of Professor Rogers. That the position might by-and-by become vacant by the full retirement of Professor Rogers is surely no adequate reason for not taking advantage of his services now. So long, at any rate, as the connection did last it would, together with the high attainments of the other professors, secure that complete internal efficiency, that confidence of the churches, and that prominent theological position, which it has already won for Lancashire Independent College. And if such men are hard to find when needed, all the more reason for retaining those we have. In conclusion, I can only express a hope that in the further deliberations of the committee "there will be found a way of retaining this association, which to them has always been profitable and pleasant." To secure it were indeed well worth much sacrifice.

I am, yours,

A READER.

Monday, Feb. 27.

THE REPORT ON CLERICAL SUBSCRIPTION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Unless I have very much misapprehended your meaning in your remarks on the Royal Commission's new form of Clerical Subscription (I refer more especially to your article last Wednesday on "Convocation," and to the "Ecclesiastical Notes" the week before), you assert that there is no difference, or none which an honourable man would regard, between it and the old and very offensive one for which it is proposed to be substituted. It is not difficult to see why the *Guardian*, whose words you quote with so much approbation, should speak as it does. The party with which it is identified is on all hands admitted to be the most consistent in its adherence to the formularies of the Church, and is therefore naturally less anxious for a change than the Evangelicals or the Broad-Church party.

Now it seems to me that there is a very considerable difference between a general declaration of assent to the Prayer-book and articles, and one of *unfeigned assent and consent to all and everything contained in them*. To take one or two analogous cases:—

An Independent minister on accepting the pastorate of a congregation, might testify his assent to the "New Congregational Hymn-book," and promise to use that and no other in public worship, but it would hardly be fair to hold him responsible for every sentiment in the 1,000 hymns of that, on the whole, admirable selection.

Again, I might have little hesitation in expressing my assent to the *Nonconformist*, and my intention to read it every week in the future as in the past, but I certainly should not pledge myself to an unfeigned assent and consent to all and everything contained even in a single number.

Once more, a man's belief in the Bible may be "unfeigned," who yet fails to see how (to take but one case), the statement in 2 Chron. xvi. 1 and 1 Kings xv. 33, can both be true, when the one asserts that in the thirty-sixth year of the reign of King Asa, Baasha, King of Israel, came up against Judah, and the other that Baasha had died in the twenty-seventh year of Asa's reign.

Of course the nation has a right to prescribe the conditions on which it will endow the holders of one set of religious opinions to the exclusion of all others, and to insist on those conditions being strictly carried out; but, on the other hand, surely, as long as there is a State-Church it is to the interest of the people generally, that its public instructors should not be unnecessarily hampered in their work. Perhaps the present clergy have no right to complain of the irksomeness of the bonds to which, for a consideration, they have voluntarily submitted, but surely all who believe that the freer men's minds, the more likely are they to arrive at truth—all who care more for the success of Christianity than of any one sect—would be glad that a large number of its future ministers should be relieved of some, at least, of the fetters, which in the past have so much impeded the comfort and usefulness of their predecessors.

Yours truly,

OMICRON.

Feb. 27, 1865.

[The question is not whether it is desirable or safe to relax clerical subscriptions, but whether the substitution of the words proposed by the commissioners for those now used, coupled with the compulsory use of words deemed erroneous, in solemn prayer to God, is a relaxation of restriction. To our conscience it would not be—and we wonder how it can be to any man's. Of course, that is the affair of the clergy—but we observe they utter many remonstrances, and swallow the indignity.—ED. NONCON.]

"DR. PARKER'S THEOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS."

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—My attention has been called to a letter in your columns bearing the above title. I cannot understand why your anonymous correspondent should criticise in the *Nonconformist* a production which he read in the *British Standard*. This method of attack places your readers and myself at a great disadvantage. The letter abounds with errors, most of which I shall endeavour to point out next week in the journal which contained the article on which your correspondent so feebly and mistakenly animadverts.

I am, Sir, truly yours,

JOSEPH PARKER.

Old Trafford, Feb. 24, 1865.

EMANCIPATION AND ITS MISERIES.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

MY DEAR SIR,—You need not wonder that emancipation has its miseries, for slavery unfits its victims for freedom. They live like beasts of burden; self-care, with all its tendencies to develop individual character, is one of their exemptions; their masters, on this account, have called them happy, but for the same reason a farmer might congratulate his pigs. A slave is deprived of all the higher inspirations which make the work of freedom pleasant. His wife is not his own, neither are his children; it is not for them that he toils; they are the master's merchandise.

Not only is everything tender and sacred torn out of his social life, but he is excluded by law from the benefits of education. His ignorance secures his subjection; his enlightenment would make it impossible. His manhood being crushed out of him, his mind kept in darkness, and his body abused in every possible way for gain, oral instruction in Christianity cannot be productive of the most intelligent or purest of morals. Still, in justice to truth, and the power of the Gospel, it should be stated that instances of the most exalted piety, of the deepest devotion to Christ, are by no means few among these victims of slavery.

Let millions, even in a time of peace, emerge suddenly from such a brutalising system into all the duties, responsibilities, self-dependency, and competition of freemen, and multitudes must suffer. But it is the slaveholder, and not the emancipator, who is to blame. No washing of his hands can clear him from the guilt of this ignorance, this inexperience, this helplessness. If he repents God will forgive him, but justify him never.

Instead of emancipation in peace, we have to deal with emancipation in war, and in a civil war of unparalleled magnitude. The freedmen may be divided into two classes. The Federal armies find one class, the other finds the Federal armies. The former are made free by armies of occupation, as in Louisiana, Mississippi, and the coast of South Carolina. But these

regions are devastated, and society in all its functions disorganised. The military officers are engrossed with their official duties, and cannot give "the contrabands" the devoted attention that their necessities require; therefore the poor creatures are in a sad plight, and most of them having had no new clothing for two or three years, are in rags. Many of them are sick, and all need food and shelter. They would gladly work, but there may be nothing to do. Thousands of the strong enlist, or hire themselves as teamsters, officers' servants, or cooks, but what is to become of the aged, the infirm, and diseased, the women and the children?

The other class are runaways. They follow the Federal armies. General Sherman, for example, brought nearly ten thousand with him from Mississippi. Or they flock from the adjacent country into the Federal lines. These are the bolder spirits, swarthy heroes who may have raced, or even fought, with bloodhounds. I have seen these fugitives after they had crossed broad rivers in rickety canoes, penetrated forests on shoeless feet, passed nights of cold and rain unsheltered and in rags, and lived for days on Indian corn or roots.

Have they no friends? Many; but they need more. The United States Government, and various societies under its patronage, are doing much in feeding, clothing, sheltering, employing, educating, and Christianising these increasing myriads, but only He whose tender searching eyes are everywhere, knows what yet remains for Christian charity to do. What is lacking is immeasurably greater than what has been supplied.

Consider the grandeur of the opportunity. President Davis estimates their number at two millions. They are increasing as the war continues, and soon will equal the whole population of Scotland. I know they are teachable, for I have taught them to read and write under the most adverse circumstances. Had they not been affectionate and forgiving, they would have avenged themselves in the blood of their oppressors. The evil effects of slavery upon their character are additional arguments why we should help them immediately, and to the extent of our ability, into a nobler and happier life.

Their wants are but temporary. They need simply to be helped to help themselves. Of about a hundred and twenty thousand that are registered in the Western Freedmen's Aid Society, more than sixty thousand have already been made self-supporting.

The National Freedmen's Relief Association of the United States has sent the Rev. Dr. Haynes, of New York, to co-operate with the auxiliaries already established in Great Britain, in commending the Freedmen to British liberality. Levi Coffin, a member of the Society of Friends, who will soon return to America, has been the principal means of securing about 8,000*l.*, chiefly from these Christians, for the emancipated slaves. We are all seeking the same end, and rejoice in each others' success.

Whether a man be for the North or South, the negro has a claim upon him. If anybody's politics are hardening his heart, searing his conscience, and lessening his respect for humanity, it is time he re-examined his views. The societies that are helping the negroes, in this, the crisis of their history, are not political. Their motto is of Divine origin:—"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

If the history of England is darkened by the guilt of the slave-trade, it is also brightened by the tender glories of philanthropy and devotion to freedom. The children of the pioneers of these principles, which in their triumph are bringing a race by a rough road to freedom, will show by their beneficence that the spirit of their ancestors is living in them. But if England is just she will be generous, for surely she owes much to the millions from whose sweat and blood she has freighted her thousands of ships with cotton, set her countless spindles in operation, clothed her people, and extended her commerce to the ends of the earth.

The Editor of the *Nonconformist* has kindly agreed to transfer to my care any contributions that his readers may send to him. Now is the time to give what our hearts prompt, and our purses can afford, for by Sherman's recent march through Georgia, thousands of slaves have been liberated, and are still pouring into Savannah, footsore, hungry, ragged and sick. Bundles of cast-off clothes, or any sort of material for clothing, may be sent to me in care of Messrs. Johnson, Johnson and Co., 17, Blomfield-street, E.C. The U. S. charge no duty on our shipments, and the Inman line no freight. Emancipation Aid Society Associations of ladies who meet once a week to make up garments for the emancipated slaves, are in process of formation, and will be of incalculable value in more ways than one. The prospect of war between England and America grows beautifully faint when the women of the two countries are working for the same Christian charity. I shall be glad to furnish any such organisation with funds or materials to set the work in motion on condition that a like amount is subsequently contributed. Let sympathy show itself in almsgiving, and let benevolence become beneficence, for this is the crisis of the negro in America, and the grandest opportunity for his friends in England to demonstrate their sincerity.

Yours truly,

CRAMMOND KENNEDY,

Agent "National Freedmen's Relief Association," 11, Queen-square, London, W.C. Feb. 8, 1865.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR THE PARALYSED AND EPILEPTIC (QUEEN'S-SQUARE, BLOOMSBURY).

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—When the above institution was established, in 1859, you very kindly inserted one or two letters for me, and also promised to favour me on another occasion; may I therefore now crave a little space in your valuable journal? The charity has, in addition to the Hospital for in and out-patients, a Samaritan Society to assist the more distressed, and a Pension Fund for the incurables. In allusion to the latter, I beg permission to state that after my beloved sister's death, wishing still to associate her memory with the work for which she had long prayed and laboured, I undertook to raise sufficient for three pensions, to be called the Sister's Memorial. Two of these, by the help of loving friends, I have accomplished, and have undertaken to pay the third, until there shall be sufficient to invest for the perpetual payment from the dividend.

I am suffering from protracted illness. The malady—consumption—is a very insidious one. It may please

God to spare me for a few years, or I may soon be called away. In the many lonely hours of the sick-room, I often think painfully that, if the latter, this small income must cease, to the grievous disappointment of the aged, afflicted recipients. It would be an unspeakable consolation to me to see this pension secured. If you, Sir, would insert this, the Lord might stir up the hearts of some of His servants to help. A sum of 200£—4,000 shillings—would accomplish it. Many of our patients have seen "better days"; most sad is it to know that they are in sickness and helplessness, suffering from the want of all comforts, even of sufficient clothing to protect them from the inclemency of the weather.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHANNA CHANDLER,
Hon. Sec. Ladies' Committee, Ladies' Samaritan Society for the Paralyzed and Epileptic, 24, Queen's-square, Bloomsbury.
43, Albany-street, Regent's-park, Feb. 22.

Foreign and Colonial.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

The Africa brings advices from New York to Feb. 17. On that day gold was 103½ premium.

The chief news relates to the war in South Carolina. The Richmond papers of the 13th state that Sherman had crossed the Edisto, which was the line held by Hardee for the defence of Branchville. A portion of Sherman's troops were two-thirds of the way from Edisto to Columbia, an important point forming the junction of the Charlotte and South Carolina and Greenville and Columbia Railroads, thus severing railroad communication with Richmond except *via* Wilmington. General Hardee reports from Charleston, on the 13th, that the enemy had driven his pickets on James Island. He says:—"Our lines were re-established to-day, but the enemy is still in strong force on the island. The movement is believed to be a demonstration. Eighteen additional steamers have arrived off the bar."

The *Richmond Sentinel* of the 16th says:—"The enemy were yesterday at Orangeburg. Our troops retreated towards Columbia. Branchville has no doubt been evacuated. Telegraph and railroad communications with Charleston has been destroyed."

The *Richmond Examiner* states that Beauregard was on the Edisto and the line of the South Carolina Railroad with the army of the Tennessee, ready to offer Sherman battle. It was reported that Wade and Hampden's cavalry have reinforced Beauregard.

The Governor of South Carolina had called the whole population, including foreigners, to arms, and those refusing to serve must leave the State.

Charleston despatches state that 2,000 to 3,000 Federals landed on James Island, two miles southwest of Charleston (the Ashley river, 1,000 yards wide, intervening), and drove in the Confederate pickets. Skirmishing ensued, but no general engagement took place. A Federal attack on Salkehatchie was easily repulsed. Another body of Federal troops advanced on the Charleston road, near Blue House, and opened with their artillery, but made no impression on the Confederate lines. The Federals had crossed the river at Bennaker's, and were moving on Edisto. It would appear that movements in flank and rear were being made on Charleston in co-operation with the advance from James Island.

Southern accounts state that three attacks made by the Federals before Wilmington, on the 11th, were repulsed.

A large Federal force had landed at Smithfield, North Carolina, with locomotive engines, it is supposed, for use after the capture of Wilmington.

Grant was fortifying his position at Hatcher's Run. It was also said that he was contemplating a movement on Goldsborough, North Carolina. It was rumoured that the Confederates were mining the Federal works at Petersburg.

Lee had issued orders offering an amnesty to all deserters returning to their duty. The general says that the resources of the Confederacy, wisely and vigorously employed, are ample, and that with a brave army, sustained by a united people, success cannot be doubtful. The advantages possessed by the enemy are of little value if not permitted to impair the Confederate resolution. Lee appealed to Georgia for supplies.

The *New York Herald* asserts that the people throughout Georgia are agitating in favour of a convention for reconstruction.

The *Tribune* says that deserters assert that dissatisfaction prevails among Lee's army at the result of the peace conference, and that numerous desertions would be the consequence.

The correspondent of the *World* reasserts that Lee will concentrate the Southern armies inland in two divisions, one in Eastern Virginia under Lee, and the other in South Carolina under Beauregard. The latter has been instructed not to attack Sherman until he is far advanced into South Carolina. Lee's movements will depend upon the result of the battle in South Carolina.

Officers arrived at Washington from before Mobile confirm the reported evacuation of the city, which would probably be surrendered when demanded. The cotton was all removed to the interior. The Federal fleet was expected to reach the city on March 1st.

Thomas's troops were embarking on board transports at Eastport on the 3rd, and everything indicated

a movement of another section of his army down the Mississippi.

Mr. McCulloch, comptroller of the currency, was spoken of as Mr. Fessenden's successor.

Mr. Fessenden had submitted to the Committee of Ways and Means a financial plan for the next fiscal year. It provides for the issue of a loan of 100,000,000 dols., in such form of bonds and such rates of interest, not exceeding 6 per cent., as may seem most advisable to the Secretary. The total public debt on Feb. 1 was officially announced at 2,000,153,000,000 dols.; the total interest was 93,130,000 dols.

Minnesota and Kansas had ratified the constitutional amendment, making now fifteen States which have adopted it.

The Finance Committee of the Confederate House was preparing a sweeping tax bill, with the view of reducing the volume of the currency.

A resolution had been introduced in the Confederate House of Representatives directing the President to ask and accept from slaveowners the services of such negroes as he may deem expedient, during the war, to perform military service. Nothing in this act shall authorise any change in the relation of slaves to their owners as property, except by the consent of the States where they reside, or by the laws of those States. The House refused to reject or postpone the consideration of the bill, and indefinitely referred it to a select committee of one member from each State.

Mr. Hunter had made a speech at a war meeting in Richmond. He said strong Governments had always made it a part of their duty and wisdom to extend liberal terms to those who had been in armed opposition, in order to reconcile them to their way, and make them contented subjects. Mr. Lincoln did nothing to soothe the reluctance or mitigate the severities of submission. It was impossible that he could suppose peace to be obtainable on his terms with the force the Confederates have in the field. Secretary Benjamin said all cotton, tobacco, and provisions must be given to support the Southern cause. Every negro willing should be allowed to go and fight, and receive freedom. There were not enough able-bodied white men in the country.

Three vessels laden with cotton had arrived at New York from Savannah.

In the case of the St. Alban's raiders, George Sanders gave evidence that C. C. Clay, claiming military and civil ambassadorial power, informed him that he directed and promised to assume the responsibility of the raid. A messenger from Richmond had arrived with a document proving the belligerent character of the raiders.

A Mexican correspondent, writing on the 15th ult., states that the Mexican Government refused Gwin's colonisation scheme, fearing that the establishment of a colony of Confederates might lead to trouble.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* says—"We are in a position to state that orders for a large number of torpedoes have been countermanded by the Confederate Government, which looks like the abandonment of the sea-coast line, harbours, and rivers, or faith in some early cessation of hostilities."

ITALY.

On the afternoon of the 23rd, Victor Emmanuel arrived in Turin. He was extremely well received by a great crowd. The following particulars are given in the Turin papers:—

His Majesty arrived at the railway-station at a quarter past two, the two Princes, and a large number of persons, including the municipal body, being in waiting to receive him. The King was in private dress. After having saluted the two Princes, he shook hands very warmly with the Mayor of Turin, the Marquis Rora, and then entered the station, where he was welcomed with much enthusiasm by the privileged persons who had obtained admission. The King at once stepped into his carriage, and was lustily cheered by the assembled crowds. All the houses in the neighbourhood were decked with flags, and the entire city wore a holiday aspect. The band of the National Guard struck up the Royal March, and the carriage started amidst general enthusiasm. His Majesty had Prince Amadeus on his right; in front of him were Prince Carignano and General Della Rocca. The crowd on all sides was very great; indeed, it seemed as though the whole population of Turin had come forth to meet the returning King. The windows, too, and balconies, were full of spectators, many of them being ladies in elegant toilettes. Directly the people along the line of route to the palace caught sight of Victor Emmanuel, they cheered him to the echo, all classes alike joining in these demonstrations of loyal affection. The reconciliation between the King and the city he had left so suddenly a short time before appeared to be complete.

The King has signed an amnesty for all acts connected with the recent riots in Turin. His Majesty appeared on Sunday in the Corso, and was enthusiastically received.

ROME.

The *Giornale di Roma* says:—"Five hundred and seventy-one convicts, belonging to the provinces annexed to Piedmont, have been surrendered by the Papal Government to the French authorities, who have already transported them to their new destination."

A letter from Rome in the *Times* says:—

The speech of the French Emperor, while it has given increased confidence to the Liberals, seems to have carried conviction even to the clerical party. Up to the present time they have doubted more or less any steadiness of purpose on the part of his Imperial Majesty. "He was only playing with both parties, attempting to frighten the Pope, and to deceive and satisfy the Italians; but now," said a distinguished prelate this week to a friend, "we

shall all be compelled to leave." Such is the growing conviction; though that the Pope will quit Rome while the French are here is not at all probable, and when they have left it may be no longer possible. In both cases it is likely that the French would guard against an event which might produce great embarrassment.

PRUSSIA.

The Prussian Government have sent a note to the Vienna Government which, it is said, rejects the proposal of Austria provisionally to transfer the Government of the Duchies to the Duke of Augustenburg until the solution of the succession question. Prussia must make the ultimate form of Government in the Duchies dependent upon certain conditions, and must also receive sufficient compensation. In conclusion, the note enumerates five points upon which it is essential for Austria and Prussia to agree before a final solution can be arrived at. These points would not be contrary to the interests of Austria, and would advance the general interests of Germany.

The assembly of delegates from the various associations of Schleswig and Holstein at their meeting at Rendsburg adopted a resolution to the effect that the inhabitants of the Duchies should leave to the Duke of Augustenburg and to the Diet of the country the conclusion of such treaties with Prussia as would be to the interest of the whole of Germany.

The following are the demands made by Prussia in reference to the Duchies in the above note:—

1. The right to levy sailors in the Duchies for the Prussian navy.
2. The cession to Prussia of the requisite territory for the establishment of the canal to connect the German Ocean and the Baltic. At each mouth of the canal large fortified docks are to be erected for the reception of Prussian men-of-war.
3. The postal and telegraphic departments of the Duchies to be under the direction of Prussia.
4. To connect as closely as possible the forces of the Duchies with those of Prussia, so far as the officering is concerned. The Holstein contingent is, however, not to quit the Federal army.

The first two conditions are made a *sine qua non*.

AUSTRIA.

The Minister of State has addressed a letter to the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Lower House of the Reichsrath, stating that no representative of the Government will henceforth be present at the sittings of the committee until the Lower House shall have decided whether the vote on the Budgets of 1865 and 1866 is to be taken upon the basis of an understanding between the House and the Government.

The Financial Committee have made a declaration intended to maintain the rights of the national representation, stating that the note despatched by Herr Von Schmerling will not prevent the continuance of the discussion of the Budget, as hitherto, in detail.

Austria has conceded the extradition of General Langiewicz to Switzerland.

SPAIN.

On Friday, Senor Alejandro Castro, the new Minister of Finance, introduced a bill authorising the issue of bonds to the amount of 300 millions of reals secured on landed property. These bonds are to be offered for public competition, for which the tenders are to be sent in sealed. Should the whole amount not be subscribed, the remaining portion will be allotted for purchase to taxpayers assessed at 400 reals yearly and upwards. The Finance Minister intends to introduce considerable reductions in the Budget.

Marshal Narvaez declared on Saturday in the Congress that the country and the finances were both in an unsatisfactory condition when the present Ministry assumed office. He added that it was necessary they should unite their efforts for the service of their country. The address to the Queen was then passed by 164 against 84 votes. The relinquishment of the Royal property by the Queen has excited considerable enthusiasm in the provinces.

CANADA.

A despatch from Quebec of Feb. 10, says:—"The resolutions with reference to the contemplated new constitution are now occupying the attention of both Legislative Assemblies. In the Upper Chamber Sir E. T. Tache and other members of the Administration spoke at length in its favour, while speeches by the Hon. Mr. Curry, Mr. Sanburn, and other members opposed to the scheme, followed. The debate will go on day by day until the sense of the House be taken on the question. It is said that Mr. Sanburn calculates upon the votes of twenty members of the Legislative Council. Should this prove the case, the probability is that the measure may be rejected. In the Legislative Assembly the Hon. Messrs. J. A. Macdonald, Cartier, Galt, Brown, and McGee have brought the subject before the House, each dilating largely upon the political, defensive, financial, and social advantages to be derived from the contemplated Federative Union. These speakers have completely exhausted the subject, so far as one view of it is concerned. Some days are now granted to the Opposition to afford time for them to consider the arguments adduced, and prepare their plan of attack."

JAPAN.

Sir Rutherford Alcock returns to England by the present mail. He is the bearer of a Convocation with the Tycoon, guaranteeing free navigation in the Inland Sea. The Convention further allows the

establishment of an English Consulate at Simonosaki, and stipulates for the payment by Japan of an indemnity for the expedition up the Straits of Simonosaki. The relations with Japan are more satisfactory and improving.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

Denmark is about concluding a treaty of commerce with the Germanic Confederation.

It is stated that the French Government propose to maintain an iron-clad fleet in the North Sea, and that the squadron will sail in the beginning of May.

Several of the Paris journals state that the Emperor has sent to M. Thiers and M. de Lamartine copies of the "Histoire de Jules César," with a dedication in his own handwriting.

The Emperor and Empress of the French were skating, a few days ago, at Paris, when an American gentleman warned them that the ice was weak, upon which they retired. They had scarcely done so when an Englishman and his daughter were immersed. Both were rescued.

THE MONT CENIS TUNNEL.—The Turin correspondent of the *Avenir National*, writing on the 13th, says:—"The Mont Cenis works will probably be completed sooner than was hoped; rocks have been reached much softer than those hitherto found, and the progress may be calculated at the rate of 250 metres per month. Should no unforeseen obstacles arise, the tunnel might be opened for traffic towards the close of 1868. I can guarantee the accuracy of these details, which interest the whole world."

DREADFUL PETROLEUM CONFLAGRATION.—We learn from the *Philadelphia Bulletin* that large petroleum works have been burned in that city. About 2,000 barrels of the inflammable material were soon a-blaze. The blazing oil that escaped from the burning barrels poured over into Ninth-street, filling the entire street with a lake of fire, and igniting the houses on both sides. An eye-witness describes the fierce body of flame as resembling a screw in its progress, destroying all living things that came in its way, burning dwellings and their contents as though they were so much straw, and even splitting into fragments the paving stones in the streets with the intense heat. Fully five squares of houses, had they been placed in a row, were on fire at once, and the scene was one to make the stoutest heart quail. People escaping from their blazing homes with no covering but their night-clothes, parents seeking for their children, and terrified little ones looking for safety in the horrid turmoil, were all dreadful enough, but there were still more terrible scenes witnessed. Men, women, and children were literally roasted alive in the streets. The entire number of buildings burnt is about forty-seven.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.

The annual dinner of this excellent institution was held at Willis's Rooms, on Wednesday last, the 22nd ult., the Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G., Lord President of the Council, in the chair. About 100 gentlemen were present, and at a later period of the evening several ladies honoured the festival with their presence. Among the guests were Sir George Baker, Bart., Major the Hon. S. P. Vereker, Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, M.P., Colonel B. Walker, C.B., Dr. West, &c., &c. After proposing the first toast, the health of "The Queen," which was received with the usual demonstrations of loyalty, and followed by the "National Anthem," the CHAIRMAN took occasion, in following it with their "Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales and all the Royal family," to remark that the institution had received gifts of a very useful character in the way of clothing, worked by Princess Helena and Princess Louisa. Prince Alfred had also sent toys, and it was known to be an immense treat to the youngest Prince of the Royal family to select some toys for the poor children in affliction in this institution.

H. S. THORNTON, Esq., proposed the "Army and Navy," and Col. B. Walker responded.

The CHAIRMAN then rose to propose the toast of the evening, "The Hospital for Sick Children." In the course of a somewhat lengthy speech, in which his lordship spoke of children in general, their attractions, and their peculiar claims upon the sympathy and kindness of older people, he said, as he understood it, the objects of this hospital were threefold. The first was the surgical and medical treatment of poor children. It was proved from statistics, that at least two-thirds of the deaths in the metropolis arise among children under ten years of age, and this he believed was absolutely contrary to the laws of nature. Another object of the society was to diffuse a more perfect knowledge with regard to the medical treatment of infants. The last object was one upon which he believed this institution might congratulate themselves, namely, the training of a class of persons who were not now sufficiently numerous and sufficiently efficient, the class of nurses. He believed that this, though an indirect, was perhaps one of the most useful parts of the institution. The number of indoor patients had increased this year from fifty-two to sixty-two, and the increase of out-patients had been very remarkable. In appealing to those present for further support, his lordship said that in Paris, with a population in the department of the Seine greatly inferior to that of the metropolitan districts, there were two large hospitals, containing about 1,100 beds. Whilst, therefore, the directors of this institution were only able to pass 500 persons in the year, they were able to pass upwards of 6,000. The noble earl concluded by giving an account of a visit which he had himself paid to the wards of the hospital, expressing his

intense delight at seeing everything wearing so pleasant and cheerful an aspect.

Major VEREKER responded to the toast proposed to the board of management, and in doing so, spoke in the warmest terms of the lady superintendent and the ladies acting under her, of the medical officers, and of Mr. Whitford, the secretary.

Dr. WEST, in acknowledging the toast to the "medical officers," pleaded very earnestly and eloquently for more liberal support. He said in the course of a long address:—

Those noble ladies who have stooped from beside the Throne to tender their gifts to suffering little ones, may, indeed, be supposed to know but little—long may they be in ignorance!—of the sufferings which those children are called upon to endure; but the little vagrant, who one night was tracked home, and seen as he passed the doors of the Children's Hospital to deposit his penny in the box over which is inscribed, "For Destitute and Sick Children," felt his brotherhood with them, and I doubt not, had his own history connected with the Children's Hospital. The little girl, not a poor one, she who sent two pounds of her money to the hospital a short time ago, with the request that a pound of it might be spent in toys, showed, I think, the heartfelt sympathy of untaught, untutored childhood; and the school-boy of twelve years old who, not long ago, called his tutor into an adjoining room, and blushing, said, "Oh, sir, we don't want anything said about it, but I and some other fellows have not wanted all our money, so we have saved it, and we want you to give it to the Children's Hospital," most certainly knew nothing of sickly sentimentalities.

The health of the chairman and of the ladies was drunk, and the assembly separated soon after eleven o'clock.

The total amount collected on the occasion was about 1,618*l.*, of which 126*l.* consisted of new annual subscriptions.

The musical arrangements, which were of an unusually excellent character, were under the direction of Mr. Thomas Francis, assisted by Miss Rose Hersee, Mr. Cummings, and Mr. Winn.

Postscript.

Wednesday, March 1, 1865.

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords last evening the Civil Bill Courts Procedure Act (1864) Amendment Bill was read a second time, and the House adjourned at twenty minutes past five o'clock.

THE SEWAGE OF LONDON.

In the House of Commons, Sir W. RUSSELL moved the second reading of the Metropolitan Sewage and Essex Reclamation Bill. He argued that the plan of Messrs. Napier and Hope was in all respects the best, and would satisfactorily dispose of the sewage. Mr. DOULTON seconded the motion. Mr. CRAWFORD moved the postponement of the bill for two months, to give time for inquiry into the whole subject. Lord R. MONTAGU argued that the scheme was not the best which could have been adopted. He thought the proposal to refer the bills to a mixed select committee was a fair one. Mr. AYRTON said the best way would be to send it to a select committee of ten members, half to be chosen by the Committee of Selection and half by the House. After some further discussion, Mr. Crawford withdrew his amendment, on the understanding that Mr. Ayrton's proposal was accepted. The bill was then read a second time and ordered to be referred to a select committee of ten, as proposed by Mr. Ayrton.

THE IRISH CHURCH.

Mr. DILLWYN gave notice that on the 28th of March he would move,—"That the present position of the Irish Church is unsatisfactory, and calls for the early attention of her Majesty's Government."

THE SLAVE-TRADE.

In reply to Mr. Cave, Mr. LAYARD said her Majesty's Government had noticed with pleasure the debates in the Spanish Senate on the slave-trade. Communications had been made to the Spanish Government on the subject.

On the motion of Lord PALMERSTON, it was agreed that the House on its rising should adjourn to two o'clock to-day.

THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION.

Sir J. PAKINGTON moved—

That a select committee be appointed to inquire into the constitution of the Committee of Council on Education, and the system under which the business of the office is conducted. He had simply two objects in view—first, the reorganisation of the department entrusted with the superintendence of the education of the people, and the making it better adapted to the functions it had to discharge; secondly, the reorganisation of the department in such a mode as to enable it to give assistance not only to the wealthy districts which now enjoyed its benefits, but also to the whole of England. He criticised the present constitution of the Educational Department, and contended that it was not satisfactory. He argued that the business of the department was to educate the whole of the country, and that at present it failed to accomplish. He would accept the amendment of which Mr. Walter had given notice, as an addition to his own resolution, on the condition that he was not pledged to carry out any particular plan.

Mr. WALTER moved the addition to the resolution of the following:—

And also into the best mode of extending the benefit of Government inspection and the Parliamentary grants to school at present unassisted by the State.

He pointed out that in this work much yet remained

to be done. Commissioners had reported on several occasions and made several suggestions which it would be for the committee to consider.

Mr. LOWE said the great object of the Committee of Council was to see that schools had good teachers. If they determined to assist all unassisted schools, then the public revenue would be abandoned to every person calling himself a schoolmaster and setting up a school. He contended that the object which Sir J. Pakington had in view was simply to change the whole educational system of the country. There was abundant information as to the department in the hands of members. He contended that there was no necessity for any such inquiry as that proposed.

An attempt was made to count out the House, but it failed.

Mr. BRUCE said it was not the intention of the Government to oppose the motion and amendment. The proposed inquiry might serve to restore harmony in respect to education, but he did not think it would elicit much information which they did not now possess as to the constitution and working of the department.

The debate was continued by Lord R. Cecil, Mr. Ayrton, and Mr. G. Hardy.

Mr. H. SEYMOUR wished to move as an addition to the order of reference—

To inquire whether some portion of the duties of the Department of Science and Art ought not to be transferred to the Committee of Council on Education.

The SPEAKER ruled that this amendment could not be put then.

The motion, with the addition of Mr. Walter's amendment, was agreed to.

DWELLINGS OF THE POOR.

Mr. KINNAIRD moved—

That it be an instruction to the select committee on the Courts of Justice Concentration Site Bill that they have power to make provision for appropriating or obtaining sites, and for the erection of lodging-houses or other suitable dwellings for the working classes proposed to be displaced by the said bill.

Mr. COWPER opposed the motion, as placing impracticable duties on the committee. A brief discussion ensued, after which an amendment was moved by Mr. HENNESSY modifying the terms of the motion. Lord PALMERSTON declined to accept the amendment, and on a division it was negatived by 18 voters to 8. Forty members not being present, the House adjourned at ten minutes past one o'clock.

TIPPERARY ELECTION.—Dublin, Monday night.—Mr. Moore has won by a large majority. At the close of the poll the numbers were—Mr. Moore, 2,042; Mr. Gill, 884; majority, 1,158.

LATEST CONTINENTAL NEWS.

A telegram from Berlin states that the Conference between the delegates from the Zollverein and the Austrian Plenipotentiary has resulted in an arrangement on the basis of mutual concessions. The signature of the Treaty of Commerce between Austria and the Zollverein will therefore shortly take place.

Bavaria and Saxony have, it seems, given up their intention of proposing at the Frankfort Diet the recognition of the Duke of Augustenburg. The intention was given up because Prussia positively declared that she would not recognise the Diet as competent to pass such a resolution, and would refuse to be bound by it. Austria strongly advised Bavaria and Saxony not to bring forward the proposition.

The Queen, in accordance with her expressed desire to fulfil the duties necessarily appertaining to her high position, held a Court at Buckingham Palace yesterday afternoon, and received the Ambassadors and Ministers of the various foreign Courts, accompanied by the whole of the staffs respectively attached to them.

SAVILLE HOUSE, LEICESTER-SQUARE, was last evening totally destroyed by fire. Shortly after six o'clock an explosion of gas took place which ignited the building, and the flames progressed so rapidly that very soon after nothing but the bare walls remained. The Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Duke of Sutherland, was present, attired in fireman's costume.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

Fresh up to our market, to-day, the arrivals of English wheat were small. The condition of the produce was very middling, and the trade for good and fine dry produce ruled firm, at full currencies. Damp qualities met a dull inquiry, on former terms. About an average supply of foreign wheat was on the stands. The amount of business transacted was small, yet prices ruled firm. Floating cargoes of grain moved off slowly, at late rates. With barley, the market was moderately supplied. For all descriptions, the trade was dull, at about previous quotations. Malt sold slowly, at late prices. Although the supply of oats on sale was very moderate, the trade was quiet, and late rates were barely maintained. Beans met a slow sale, at late prices. For peas, the trade was firm. Flour changed hands to a moderate extent, at full quotations.

MR. SPURGEON'S LECTURES.—Our readers will be glad to learn that Mr. C. H. Spurgeon is to redeliver in his Tabernacle, on March 14th, his popular lecture, entitled, "Sermons in Candles." Although Mr. Spurgeon is not a total abstainer, he has for some years past been kind enough to lecture on behalf of the funds of the United Kingdom Band of Hope Union. The first part of the lecture will be illustrated by those striking emblems which have before been used, and the second part (which has not before been given) by some newly-painted dissolving views. Charles Gilpin, Esq., M.P., is to preside, and to add to the interest of the occasion six hundred children are to sing. The tickets will be sold at 2*s.* 6*d.* and 1*s.* each.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*. We beg to acknowledge the receipt of 4l. 6s., subscribed by friends at Reading, towards the fund raised for the family of the late Mr. Washington Wilks.

*. We are reluctantly compelled to forward this week's number to many of our Subscribers with a postage stamp affixed, in place of the Government impress stamp, in consequence of unavoidable delay in the Stamp Office.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1865.

SUMMARY.

DURING the season of 1864, Queen Victoria had one or two limited receptions at Buckingham Palace. Yesterday afternoon Her Majesty took a further step in advance by holding a court to receive the foreign ambassadors and their respective staffs. It is understood that this is only the first of many semi-public appearances of the Queen during the present season, which will be welcomed as a proof that her Majesty, though not prepared to take part in great state ceremonies, such as drawing-rooms and levees, is anxious to meet as far as possible the reasonable wishes of her subjects.

The funeral of Cardinal Wiseman last Thursday assumed the dimensions of a public event. No such crowds have been witnessed in the streets of London, on a similar occasion, since the burial of the Duke of Wellington; and the pomp and splendour of the ceremonial at Moorfields Chapel have perhaps never been equalled in this country. Making all deductions on the score of general curiosity, there was such an array of Roman Catholics in the streets last Thursday, as reveals the strength of the Irish element in our population. No one would have suspected the possibility of such a scene being witnessed in the capital of Protestant England. But the late Cardinal, spite of the "Papal-aggression" blunder, was a popular man; his personal character inspiring respect, and his cultivation of literature bringing him very largely into contact with the outside world.

The City Police, put on their mettle, have succeeded in tracking and arresting the principal members of the gang of burglars, whose daring robberies have lately created so great a sensation, and in capturing a considerable part of the jewellery and watches stolen from the shop of Mr. Walker. The case has yet to be brought home to the prisoners, but there is no doubt that the trial will elicit abundant proofs of the daring, clever combinations and scientific skill of the robbers, which in ordinary life would have assured for them a successful business career.

The Prussian Government do not seem to have decided how best to appropriate the northern Duchies. Unable formally to annex them, Herr Bismark is still aiming to make these provinces entirely dependent on Prussian protection, and the conditions he has laid down will, if agreed to, effect that object. The minor German Powers, impatient of delay, are kept in check by Austria, which, in its own turn, refuses to consent to any scheme of incorporation. But Herr Bismark is clearly "master of the situation."

General Sherman continues his successful campaign in South Carolina. Branchville, the point of junction of the railways to Charleston, Augusta, and Columbia, has been flanked by his successful manoeuvres, and abandoned by the Confederates. Thus Richmond is entirely isolated from the South-West. While Charleston is threatened with an attack by land as well as by sea, a strong Federal army is gathering round

Wilmington. Should both these cities fall, it is thought that Richmond will be untenable, and that General Lee will retire to Lynchburgh, there to make a final stand.

The confidence expressed by President Davis, in his war speech delivered after the failure of the peace negotiation, does not seem to be shared by his Secretary of State. Mr. Benjamin's address at a subsequent meeting reveals the desperate condition of the Confederacy. "We now know," says that official, "that we must either conquer or die." But he does not despair if the South will consent to make the necessary sacrifices. "We want means," he frankly confesses. First, he declares that he would "take every bale of cotton in the land," and he offers his own to begin with. "No man has a right to hold back a bale of cotton from his country. . . . Take all the cotton and tobacco and make it the basis of means, without which we cannot go on." But men also are needed—black men as well as white. "Let us say to every negro who wishes to go into the ranks on condition of being made free, 'Go and fight—you are free.' If we press them they will go against us." Alluding to the impetus given to the new Confederacy by the accession of Virginia, Mr. Benjamin said that every State would follow Virginia if she took the lead. "Let your Legislature pass the necessary laws, and we will soon have 20,000 men down in those trenches fighting for the country. You must make up your minds to try that or see your army withdrawn from before your town." As for the skulkers, he had no hope of them, and the croakers he would hang. "Where," he asks, "is Tennessee and other States that were formerly relied on? You have a part of Virginia, part of North Carolina, part of South Carolina, and parts of other States. What else? (A voice: 'Texas.') Texas! she is beyond our reach—would that she were not." Such a confession of weakness as this justifies the Federals in believing that the present campaign will be the last. And it is observed that the Confederate Congress, though so sorely pressed, have deliberately refused to arm the slaves.

ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

OUR readers, we are confident, will share our deep regret at the announcement that, owing to ill health, Lord Lyons has been compelled to resign the post of British Minister at Washington. The noble lord, whose diplomatic skill and courtesy have done so much to preserve unimpaired our friendly relations with the Federal Government, will deprive us of the benefit of his long experience and high reputation at a critical moment. We learn that he will be succeeded in his post by Sir Frederic Bruce, our Minister in China, who happens just now to be in England. No doubt, Earl Russell is well qualified to select the fittest man within his reach for so important an office—but we are compelled to confess that we regard the appointment with some uneasiness. The man who comes straight from an Eastern Court in which his chief business has been to keep up in the minds of those with whom he had to do what he would regard as a wholesome fear of British power, does not strike one, at first sight, as likely to have acquired precisely the habits, manners and address which will prove most successful in dealing with a somewhat self-asserting and sensitive Republic, and it is hardly supposable that during his absence at Pekin he has kept himself au courant of all that has occurred in the West since the commencement of the Civil War. The noble Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, however, is not one who thinks lightly of his own responsibility—we are satisfied with the line of policy he has hitherto successfully pursued—and we will try to believe that he has chosen the fittest diplomatist to represent his views, and the views of the country, at the White House, Washington.

We are the more concerned at this change, because we think we see a strong disposition on the part of some who sympathise with the Southern Confederates to beget a mistrust of President Lincoln's future designs. The unfortunate circumstances which occurred some time since in Canada, the hasty resentment they kindled on the other side of the border, the unwise propositions which in consequence were mooted in both Houses of Congress, the notice given by Mr. Lincoln prior to the suspension of the treaty restricting the employment of naval force on the lakes, and to the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty, and, above all, the communication to both Houses of Parliament of Col. Jervois's report on the defences of Canada, brought out a most mischievous, and what we fancy the issue will prove, a most irritating discussion in the House of Lords, not unlikely to annoy the Federal Government, and to render its intercourse with our own less friendly than it has been. It is singularly unfortunate, moreover,

that precisely at the moment when moderation of speech and criticism was most imperative, a passage of a despatch from Mr. Seward to Mr. Adams narrating what took place at the recent informal conference for peace, should be seized upon with avidity by the London *Times*, and perverted into a charge against the Federal Government and people, which, in intention, fastened upon them the offence of listening to an infamous proposal from the Confederates, notwithstanding they rejected it, but which passed over in silence the wickedness of the Southerners in making that proposal. The whole affair is so significant and characteristic that we shall hardly do justice to it without giving it a more detailed description.

Mr. Seward, then, in his despatch to Mr. Adams, gives him, among other statements, the following information:—"What the insurgent party seemed chiefly to favour was a postponement of the question of separation, upon which the war is waged, and a mutual direction of the efforts of the Government, as well as those of the insurgents, in some extrinsic policy or scheme for a season, during which passions might be expected to subside, and the armies be reduced, and trade and intercourse between the people of both sections be resumed. It was suggested by them that through such postponement we might now have immediate peace, with some not very certain prospect of an ultimate adjustment of political relations between the Government and the States, section or people, now engaged in conflict with it. The suggestion, though deliberately considered, was nevertheless regarded by the President as one of armistice or truce, and he announced that we can agree to no cessation or suspension of hostilities except on the basis of the disbandment of the insurgent forces, and the restoration of the national authority throughout all the States in the Union." Upon this passage the *Times* founded an article of bitter oburgation against the President, an echo of which, as usual, followed in the money article of yesterday's impression. These are its words—"The market opened with flatness consequent on the doubts engendered as to the possible maintenance of peace in the world by any policy, however temperate and prudent, when it is found that the head of a great nation can, without apparent scruple, avow participation in a discussion as to whether the proper way of settling an internal quarrel would not be to combine and fall upon some wholly neutral people."

Now here is a fair sample in which the leading English newspaper exhibits towards the Federal Government, and the people who live under it, its impartiality. The proposition was made by the Confederates, whose cause the *Times* has done its utmost to serve, and whom, no doubt, it hopes one day to recognise as an independent Power. Not a whisper of censure is breathed against the South for its baseness in making the suggestion—not a syllable against President Davis, who probably gave it birth. It is not apparent whether the "extrinsic policy" meant a combined attack on Mexico or on Canada. It is not pretended that Mr. Lincoln inclined to accept the proposal made to him—but it is asserted by Mr. Seward, who is known to take pleasure in flinging defiant phrases at European Powers, that it was "deliberately considered," which, as the whole conference lasted but four hours, can only mean that it was not flung back with instant scorn. The reasons assigned by the President for rejecting it were the proper and politic reasons to put before the Confederate Commissioners, and, inasmuch as there was no thought of departing from them an inch-breadth, it may be concluded that the deliberation lasted no longer than was necessary to put the foregone conclusion of Mr. Lincoln into fitting words. Yet, because the proposition was made to him by the insurgent Commissioners, and because he chose to give the Commissioners their proper answer, namely, that he was not likely to be cajoled into an armistice by any pretext—the indignant denunciation of the *Times*, sparing the authors of the unprincipled project, is hurled against him who simply received and rejected it. What man in America who sides with the North will not be irritated beyond measure by this flagrant partisanship?

Such are the circumstances, and such the unhappy state of feeling on both sides the ocean, which make us deplore the withdrawal of Lord Lyons, and the substitution for him of Sir Frederic Bruce. Our main hope of the preservation of peace, however, is not much shaken. We believe that it is not in the power of an indiscreet political adventurer on the one side, nor of a furiously partisan journal on the other, to deeply disturb the sound feeling and strong common sense which govern the bulk of the people on both—and we trust events will prove that neither can the House of Lords nor the *Times* bring about a collision which would put back the cause of humanity for at least half a century.

THE REPORT ON THE DRESSMAKERS AND MILLINERS.

THE last few months of an expiring Parliament may not perhaps be considered an opportune time for the settlement of the outstanding claims of the employed dressmakers. Unfortunately for many of our legislators, with the exception of the "hereditary wise," the critical ordeal of the election-hustings is already uncomfortably near, so that themes more novel and telling than the hours of needlewomen and the regulation of workrooms will be needed for the intervening rehearsal. But in spite of the exigencies of these gentlemen, it is to be hoped that the Government will not attempt to ignore the enterprise on behalf of our needlewomen which it saw fit to institute in the Session of 1863, nor suffer to be shouldered aside a question which has at length been ripened for decision by the labours of a Royal Commission.

The Report of the Commissioners who have been temporarily entrusted with the case of the dressmakers and milliners, may well be supposed to be of social and legislative value. It was undertaken just as the revelations of a coroner's inquest had awakened to a periodic activity the well-grounded suspicions of the friends of the young women employed, and it was expected to contain the data upon which a somewhat delicate experiment in legislation was to proceed. Notwithstanding the miscarriage of the Bill introduced by Lord Shaftesbury eight years before, it was felt that, if the event which had just stigmatised the London fashionable season was to be supplemented by any effort at redress, a fresh official inquiry into the condition of needlewomen throughout the country ought at once to be undertaken. In spite of the alleged private and domestic character of the dressmaking business, there was an inclination to believe that it might be found practicable, in some measure, to regulate by legal enactment the work-room usages of the employer. Although Lord Shaftesbury's measure had failed of acceptance in Parliament, in consequence of the threatened difficulty of obtaining legal convictions, there had since been a valuable experience of enactments somewhat similar in aim, which had in fact been found effectual to accomplish their specific objects. With regard to the objections which might naturally be taken by employers, the not unreasonable answer was given, that the prolonged operation of the Factory Acts had gradually naturalised the idea of State interference in particular cases for the benefit of the employed. The working of the Act for the Regulation of Bakehouses might, it was said, be still more effectively appealed to. On these and similar grounds, not a few have looked for such recommendations on the part of the newly-authorised Commissioners as might corroborate their foregone conclusions and ultimately bring about the desired intervention of the Legislature.

It need not be announced that the Commissioners have amply justified these provisions. Their recommendations of an extension of the principle of the Factory Acts to the work-rooms of milliners and dressmakers, are resolute and precise. They would enforce sanitary inspection of the rooms, a limitation of the hours of work, as well as regulations for the meal-times of workers. They are willing to admit that since the investigations of their predecessors in 1842, there have been some improvements in the conduct of the business. This they say has taken place chiefly in provincial towns, and in the wholesale warehouses in the City. The use of the sewing-machine is rapidly metamorphosing the whole trade, to the especial advantage of those who are employed in the commoner kinds of needlework. Moreover, the silk-mercers and drapers in the larger way of business have lately entered into competition with the Court milliners and dressmakers, and as the former almost invariably employ day-workers instead of residents, an acceptable alternative is now presented in contrast to the system which has become notoriously identified with late hours and insufficient sleeping accommodation. The Commissioners also acknowledge that a valid service has been rendered to the welfare of the employed by the various Dressmakers' Associations. Miss Bramwell's "Home" in Great Marlborough-street is mentioned as an illustrative case. A register of situations is kept by the superintendent, domestic accommodation is provided for day-workers, and a record of the character of the different business establishments is known by employers to be preserved for use. But notwithstanding these admissions, the Commissioners are ready to demonstrate that the improvements they mention are absolutely inadequate to meet the urgency of the case. Without affirming it to be advisable to place the workwomen under the identical schedules of the Factory Act, they contend for a limitation of the hours of work as well as for some regulation which shall secure sufficient time

for meals (inasmuch as the interval at present allowed "is less than that in any other large industrial calling,") and lastly for the inspection of the work-rooms by sanitary and medical officers.

It is undoubtedly easy and congenial to minds of a given constitution to prescribe with a cheap benevolence and a peremptory air for the redress of wide-spread and complex evils; and the habit is the more provoking when the problem at issue is one which concerns the means and measures to be employed, rather than the abstract principles in question. But it would be unfair to twit the Commissioners with an insinuation, or to bring against them a direct accusation, which should ignore the specific and comparative value of the evidence they submit, and the importance, for the purpose of their inquiry, of the experience they have acquired in similar investigations. As the members of the Children's Employment Commission, they will be at once exempted by the observant and the considerate from any charge of impulsive and immature generalisations in their suggestions for the good of the dressmakers. The recommendations which their inquiries have led them to present, are based upon an extent of evidence which seems to us to complete the case which was needed for the adjudication of the Legislature, by practically exhausting the field for inquiry. They have obviously felt it their primary business to collect, with painstaking labour and discrimination, that extent and variety of testimony which could be considered as final to the question at issue, so far, indeed, as that question is dependent upon testimony at all; and beyond a passing reference to the analogy of existing enactments, which, they believe, will shield their suggestions from the charge of novelty, they leave to the consideration of Parliament the choice of executive measures. They say that women in the particular walk of life which has been under their consideration, are compelled to such prolonged hours of toil as men cannot and will not endure, and that after the considerable experience they have gained in the manufacturing districts amongst occupations of a cognate character, it is impossible to conceive of any department of industry in which the legislation they recommend is more urgently needed. Having discharged the trust committed to them by the Government and the country, they leave to Parliament the adjustment of those interests which may appear to be in mutual opposition, the selection of fair and efficient measures for carrying out their proposal, and the general responsibility of complementing an enquiry which could not have been intended simply to allay the excitement caused by a coroner's inquest.

NOTES OF THE SESSION.

THE great—almost the sole—topic of discussion in the House of Commons during the week, has been the condition of Ireland. It was begun on Friday, on the motion of Mr. Hennessey, that "this House observes with regret the decline of the population of Ireland, and will readily support Her Majesty's Government in any well-devised measure to stimulate the profitable employment of the people; and that an address to the Crown be prepared and founded on the foregoing resolution." The motion was not a happy one, but it was good enough to furnish an occasion for a two nights' debate, conducted with moderation and with a remarkable absence of party feeling. There has not been so creditable a discussion on Ireland for many a year, nor a franker acknowledgment of the momentous importance of the subject. The tone of the House throughout was admirably indicated by the remarks of Mr. Lowe, who said:—

The time may have been when Irish subjects were treated with indifference; but to me this is the question of questions for this empire. Our foreign policy, owing to late events, has somewhat receded into the background. As to our domestic policy, we are so happily situated in this country that we can hardly get up a point of first-rate importance upon which we have any serious difference. But as to Ireland it is different. She is bound to us by an indissoluble tie. She is not like the colonies, in whose welfare and advancement we may feel pride, satisfaction, and interest, but whom, after all, we merely regard as young nations whom we are training to take their own course in the world, and to separate from the parent connection, rather than as integral and perpetual parts of the empire. It is not so with Ireland. For good or evil, for better or for worse, she is bound to us by a tie which we would perish rather than allow any one to break. That being so, how unspeakably important will it be if anything can be devised by our efforts of conciliation to place her in a position something like that occupied by Scotland!

If "in the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom," Ireland may have reason to rejoice in this debate. More than thirty members delivered their opinions on the subject. But there was great difference as to the causes of Irish distress; still greater as to the most suitable remedies. Barely to mention the diverse views which

were expressed, makes the problem look almost insoluble. Ireland's unhappy condition was set down to the following among other causes, according to the views of the several speakers,—the absence of tenant right; the lack of arterial drainage; the chronic irritation caused by an alien Church Establishment; the strife of religious parties; the unwillingness of the Government to encourage public works, and the reclamation of waste lands; the influence of a moist climate; the change of arable into pasture land; the absence of minerals; the scarcity of manufactures; the unwillingness of capitalists to spend money in Ireland; the want of self-reliance in the people.

On Friday Mr. Gladstone replied to Mr. Hennessey, mainly from a Chancellor of the Exchequer's point of view, contending that Ireland enjoyed large immunities from taxation, that advances of money could not be made from the Imperial Exchequer except on commercial terms, and that the difficulties of Ireland were somewhat diminishing. The Committee which sat last year on the subject of Irish taxation had come to no definite agreement—yielding only "a large family of separate draught reports." The Irish members, who followed, drew a dismal enough picture of the state of their country—one-third of the population having emigrated, small holdings disappearing by wholesale—293,835 since 1841—and the peasantry driven out, having no resources to fall back upon, and no such Poor-law as in England to take care of them. But one of the speakers from the sister island spoke with commendable impartiality. Mr. Dawson remarked:—

He did not think the present condition of Ireland altogether satisfactory, and thought the troubles of that country were a cause for great anxiety and deep consideration, but at the same time he did not regard them as arising from any errors of Government, but rather from a number of adverse circumstances caused by a series of unfortunate seasons.

Several districts of Ireland laboured under excessive disadvantages, engendered by the humidity of the climate in regard to many of the productions of the soil. In the north-east the wheat crop would scarcely ripen, and the crops of oats and barley were so late that the tempestuous weather of the equinoxes set in and rendered the saving of the grain very difficult.

"It all comes of agitation, and the pandering of Liberal Governments to popular passion," was the burden of Mr. Bentinck's speech, but the Norfolk squire was fittingly rebuked by Mr. Monsell, who said that Liberal Governments had delivered that country from the domination and ascendancy of men like the hon. gentleman—"Hear, hear," and laughter)—from men who declaimed against the people for listening to agitators for Catholic Emancipation, and yet, when the population was rapidly diminishing, refused to give a single half-penny in the shape of a loan. Sir Robert Peel quoted statistics which certainly justify the hope that there is a gradual improvement being effected in Ireland; and his view is sustained by the cessation of emigration. Lord Robert Cecil was witty and smart, but did not contribute much to a practical solution of the subject beyond reminding the House that England owed it to Ireland to repair the wrongs done by our fathers.

The speeches of Mr. Gregory and Mr. Maguire, who wound up the first night's debate, were remarkable for the warnings, if not menaces, they contained. The hon. member for Galway naturally insisted that harbours and drainage were necessary for the prosperity of Ireland, but if no remedial measures were adopted, scarcely an Irishman would be found on the Ministerial benches. Mr. Maguire also remarked:—"The Irish people were discontented—that was the fact—and the next General Election would show that, unless the Government altered their policy, they would not continue to sit on those benches. He was bound to speak the truth, and he had spoken it. The Government had yet offered to them a *locus penitentiae*, and he adjured them to take advantage of it." "Which of you will bid the highest for our support?" is the language of the Irish members to the heads of parties. It is manifest that, under present circumstances, they are hoping most from the Conservatives—from the party which sticks to the Irish Church, and abjures tenant right!

Monday night's debate was more dignified and statesmanlike than that of Friday. Mr. Roebuck opened by a general lecture all round. England had been a cruel step-mother to Ireland, but since 1829 the sister island had enjoyed equal rights and equal justice. But the Irish members did not understand their own case; "the whole thing from the beginning to the end on their part was a sort of moan of a beggar—a sort of mendicant whine." And again:—"The miseries of Ireland were caused by her own children, by their weakness, their prejudices, their narrow views, their hostility one towards the other." Mr. Roebuck's charge against "hon. and learned gentlemen" of "pandering to small prejudices among Protestants," brought up Sir Hugh Cairns, who sarcastically dwelt upon his

assailant's method of peace-making. Mr. Lowe, with unusual moderation, devoted his great logical powers to an examination of the causes of Ireland's present condition, and the remedies to be applied. He would distribute the Irish Church revenues to each denomination according to the population—i.e., endow all—and abolish the Viceroyalty. More than that, he did not think legislation could effect. They could not give subsidies to the Irish people under the name of public works, nor compete with the labour market of America. But Ireland "was the only single drop of bitterness in the cup of our otherwise overflowing prosperity," and they could endeavour to find some means of alleviating her condition "not by attempting to arrest the miserable exodus, but by avoiding in that House all topics calculated to irritate and excite the feelings, by expressing their sincere wishes for her welfare, and by trying to heal the wounds of centuries of misgovernment."

In the subsequent discussion, the Lord Advocate contrasted Scotland's self-reliance with Ireland's helplessness, and expressed regret that the Irish Church was so much kept out of sight. Mr. Dunlop spoke with plainness as to the necessity of Irishmen standing on their own legs. "Every speech calling for Government aid, every laudation of Lord-Lieutenant Eglinton merely for encouraging a wretched affair which brought many to ruin without doing good to one human being, had," he said, "no other effect but to encourage the mischievous leaning on others which was the bane of Irishmen." Sir G. Grey supplemented, in more diffuse language, the sentiments of Mr. Gladstone; Mr. Caird, in a speech full of practical wisdom, suggested that if loans were granted for the reclamation of land in Ireland, on the conditions upon which they had been applied in England and Scotland, so that the money should be repaid, there could be no doubt whatever that it might be done with great public advantage.

Sir Stafford Northcote, who spoke with the authority of a leader in the absence of Mr. Disraeli, strongly urged that the motion should not be pressed to a division, and that Mr. Hennessy should be satisfied with the debate that had taken place, and the promise that the Committee of last year should be reappointed.

In his admirable summing up of the merits of the case, Lord Palmerston not only admitted that the subject needed investigation, but expressed his readiness to assent to the reappointment of the Committee of last Session "with a view to a more extensive range of inquiry." Mr. Hennessy, not considering this offer definite enough, preferred to divide, and carried only thirty-one members with him. But there is little doubt that the proposal of Lord Palmerston will bear fruit, and that the whole question of the condition of Ireland will be at least considered by a Select Committee during the present Session. The great fear is, from Mr. Hennessy's persistence, that he does hope to extort those "pecuniary obligations" which the Prime Minister repudiates. But certainly, after this debate, it can no longer be said that the Imperial Parliament is disposed to turn a deaf ear to the claims of the Irish people.

Last night Mr. Dillwyn renewed his notice of motion, somewhat varied in form, respecting the Irish Church. It is fixed for the 28th of March. In a very thin House, Sir John Pakington's motion for a "Select Committee to inquire into the constitution of the Committee of Council on Education, and the system under which the business of the office was conducted," with Mr. Walter's addendum for extending Government inspection and the grant to schools at present unassisted, was discussed at some length, and finally agreed to, after the perils of a "count-out" had been surmounted. Mr. Lowe vigorously opposed the inquiry as likely to revolutionise the whole system of public education, but failed to make any impression. Mr. Kinnaird subsequently proposed that some provision should be made in the way of appropriating or obtaining sites, and for the erection of lodging-houses or other suitable dwellings for the 4,000 people likely to be evicted by the erection of a new Palace of Justice. Mr. Cowper startled the House by offering 100*l.* to anyone who would devise a plan of meeting the terrible evil. The subject was disposed of by the "count-out" of the House.

DOES THE SPIDER EAT HIS WEB?

THE spider seldom gets much credit for being nice in his eating. All are flies that come to his net. The remains of various "creeping things," as well as of winged creatures, are often found near his den. We have ourselves seen more than one fat moth hanging in his larder; and he is understood to have a particular predilection for the choice pieces of a wasp.

Even a spider, however, must draw the line some-

where (not to say anything of the great number of lines which he draws professionally), and it certainly had not occurred to us that his bill of fare ever extended to his own article of manufacture. Our attention was all the more readily caught by the appearance of the question which heads this paper, in the table of contents of one of the magazines for February. As the subject was curious, and the price of the periodical small, we invested a small sum in the purchase of the latter, and carried it home. Till it was convenient to cut the leaves, and ascertain what might be the answer, the question itself afforded some food for speculation. There was something exciting to the imagination, in the bare idea of the proceeding to which it pointed.

Why should a spider eat his own web? we reflected. Is there a period of spider life at which the eating or killing of flies becomes distasteful? Are the instruments of this art made away with, from the same motive with which Prospero vowed to "break his staff, and bury it certain fathoms in the earth"; only with this difference, that the one enchanter had the trouble of digging a hole, while the other chooses a shorter and an easier method? Or do spiders ever feel remorse? If they do, there is no accounting for the freaks of a restless and uneasy mind. Doctor Johnson once stood for half an hour bareheaded in Lichfield market-place, as a self-imposed penance for having formerly treated his father with disrespect on that spot. Possibly we are to account in this way for the circumstance, if a spider was once seen to eat his web. He meant by a solemn and public act of mastication, to confess and expiate his past crimes as a garrotter of flies? Or is there even in the entomological world, a species of poetic justice? Does a sure Nemesis wait always, on that very cruel joke of, "Will you walk into my parlour"? May it not be in the commission of such fairies and elves as in "Midsummer Night's Dream," "revisit the pale glimpses of the moon," to avenge the ghosts of their cousin the moth, and the May-fly their friend? Do they, perhaps, stand, over the grim ogre, where "gloomily retired," as Thomson says, "the villain spider sits," and inflict upon him a compulsory meal on his own arms and ammunition, under penalty of a stab from the sting of a nettle, or a stroke from a moonbeam?

Thus far our conjectures had carried us, when we reached home, and looked immediately for a paper-knife. Our readers shall have the full benefit of our discoveries. We are bound to say, after reading the article to which we turned, that the evidence adduced afforded no very large amount of support to any one of the above suppositions. Spiders do eat their own webs, we found, but they do it purely on principles of expediency. There is no compulsion, no sign of penitence, or of being tired of their ancient vocation. Webs are only eaten when they are done with, or too much broken to admit of being mended. A new web will, no doubt, be spun, as soon as may be practicable; but meanwhile, what to do with the old? Such a solution of the question could probably not suggest itself to any brain but that of a spider, but to him it would seem to be the most natural thing in the world to turn his own person, on occasion, into a lumber-room or a shop for repairs. Or does he smack his lips when he has finished? Is a web which is good to catch flies, really good to eat? Perhaps we had better condense briefly the account to which we are indebted for our information.

The writer of the narrative evidently entertains a great respect for Robert Bloomfield, the country poet; whether for his verses or not, at all events for his accuracy of observation. Bloomfield asserts in his writings, that spiders eat their webs, and this, Ray the naturalist denies or thinks doubtful. The poet's admirer, he tells us, took the pains to investigate the question practically, and in a way of experiment. Armed with a pair of sharp scissors, he descended into the garden. An uninjured web was found, and what was equally important, the artificer and owner was at home. A succession of dexterous and prompt snips soon severed all the points of attachment but one. What had been a moment before a delicate expanse of lace-work, collapsed of course immediately, and hung a shapeless and a drooping mass. The proprietor proved equal to the occasion, and manfully vindicated the theory of Bloomfield. Recovering almost instantly the presence of mind which such an incident had naturally disturbed, he lost no time in collecting and gathering up into a bundle the dishevelled threads. The bundle was then rolled into a small and tight ball, and carried to the shelter of the underside of a leaf. His next step was deliberately to swallow it! The ball was first moistened (as the boa-constrictor licks his morsel well over before bolting it), but apart from this little additional ceremony, the whole mass

seems to have disappeared much as a rope of macaroni slides down a Neapolitan's throat. Being known to be of a slippery disposition, the sole actor in this curious performance was very narrowly inspected, and indeed watched through a Codrington lens, so that there was no opportunity of shamming. The whole process seems to have occupied only twenty minutes, from the very first snip of the scissors to the ultimate gulp.

It certainly was an astonishing feat. It is hard to know which to wonder at more,—the extremely versatile resources of the web-spinner, or the very unexpected capabilities of his fabric. Are we to class cobwebs for the future as weapons of war, or as articles of diet? Are they preferable as food, or as means of providing food? One would like to know if the spider would sell his secret on reasonable terms. What an immense boon it would be, say to an army, on any failure in the commissariat, if they could fall back on their muskets and ammunition wagons! Or at sea, how convenient the masts and the rigging would be, could they be turned to account as a reserve stock of provisions,—an invaluable substitute for pork and biscuit to-morrow, as they were for a totally different purpose to-day! Captain Sherard Osborn declared a fortnight ago, almost pathetically, that so many of her Majesty's ships are being broken up for want of something to do, that the ladies who live near our principal naval seaports, are boiling their tea-kettles every day with the chips. What an immense saving to the Admiralty and the nation, if a few superfluous frigates and seventy-fours, could be simply swallowed up by some new species of dry or wet dock, to be given out again presently as revenue-cutters or mailboats!

How to make your possessions in the strictest sense easily convertible? In this one point, at least, spiders seem to have some advantage over men. Their capital is never so locked up, but that they can do something with it. If one of their patterns in gossamer turns a little old-fashioned, it is swallowed long before it has time to block up their shelves. If their fly-catching machinery stands idle, they have only to oil it a little more than usual, when lo! without laying the cloth even, dinner is served!

Such arrangements are beautifully simple. They are obviously a little too simple for human exigencies. There are after all one or two objects of existence for men, which do not belong to spiders. To be able to turn every other species of human treasure at once into bread, would no doubt be a gigantic stride in human felicity, if man lived by bread alone. If truth were nothing, and if honest conviction were nothing, it would save an infinite deal of trouble to dispose of your beliefs, when they happen for a time not to pay very well, as spiders dispose of their webs. Or suppose it were possible to re-absorb, spider-fashion, even your sympathies and your affections, whenever these cost you solicitude, or lay you open to pain? The tears shed would be fewer; there would be less that was noble either in sorrow or in joy; human life itself would be a very shallow and a very empty thing.

If we prefer, on the whole, not to resolve all the aims and ends of being, into animal wants, we can afford at the same time to admire the exquisite and perfect mechanism of organic life, and of the purely material parts of creation. The poor spider's eccentricities are not so eccentric as they seem. He is moving all the time, within bounds of law. His eight legs and feet are keeping step, though he does not know it, in a march in which all the elements and atoms join. When he swallows his web, he is simply giving his particular illustration of the rule, that in nature nothing must be wasted, nothing lost. If the first principle which looks out upon us out of all the works of God, be liberality, or grand profusion, the second is a wise, superb economy. This appears in things which are greatest, and in things which are least. The spider clings to a broad leaf, and weaves his old patterns over again in new silk, and the slender tissues are not worthless, even when some rude blow shivers or entangles them. Moreover, when he eats his web, he is one small link in a universal cycle of incessant reproduction and change. We remember reading in Liebig's "Natural Laws of Husbandry," that when a leaf fades and falls, it is a kind of empty envelope, a poor simulacrum of its former self. In the very act which we call fading, the best part of its substance was given back to the bough or the spray on which it hung, and there reabsorbed. What the tree seems to lose in leaves, it really gains in wood, as the torn web nourishes the spider. Ages and ages since, the earth brought forth abundantly, and every bud and every tree, like the whole mighty network of thicket and forest, drew their juices of life from her bosom. Stretched out broad and deep along what is now the mountain limestone, we find

the same old network of vegetation lying in her bosom again,—the wood changed into coal. Here is the earth herself swallowing what she had first brought forth, and keeping it stored up in her "coal-measures" till we need it to-day. Dig out the coal, let the hearth be bright, and let the forge glow, and then watch how the dark vapours creep and spread over the sky, like some mighty spider's web. The spider still eats its own web. Even this last product of the furnace and the chimney is too precious to lose. Ten thousand green leaves attract and suck in the rich carbon, which the atmosphere has distilled from the smoke. Through their innumerable mouths, the unwearied old planet swallows her own workmanship again; as a tree extracts the substance of its own falling leaves, or as the spider eats his web.

EFFECTS OF THE HURRICANE IN CALCUTTA.

(From a Calcutta Correspondent.)

When the Viceroy returned to Calcutta from Simla, he was assured by one high in office that the story of the hurricane had been very much exaggerated. The authorities, however, no longer hold this opinion. A most interesting report has just been presented to the Lieut.-Governor of Bengal, both of the effects of the hurricane and the measures adopted for relieving the extensive distress which it produced. A few lines will suffice to place on permanent record in an English newspaper the most striking facts which it contains.

1. The hurricane did by far the largest amount of damage in the south part of Bengal from Calcutta to the sea. Nevertheless, in all the districts to the north-east, as far as the Garrod Hills, it raged with fearful violence, and did an immense amount of harm. In the former case two causes were at work, the wind and the storm-wave; in the latter district the wind alone. In the former case lives were destroyed as well as property, in the latter the injury was almost exclusively confined to houses and trade. It has now become clear that had not the low districts south of Calcutta been submerged, and carried off the greater portion of the storm-wave, that wave would have reached the city in full strength, and all but swept it away. The loss of life would then have been incalculably greater than it has actually proved.

2. LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY.

The reports from the different magistrates, carefully compiled from local inquiries, exhibit the following appalling results:—

	Natives killed.	Huts destroyed.	Cattle killed.
Calcutta	16	1,322	...
Suburbs	31	39,378	...
South Districts			
West of the Hoogly	22,043	250,000	40,000
Ditto, East of the Hoogly	21,000	200,000	16,000
North districts ...	140	120,000	not known.
	43,230	610,700	56,000

Put into plain words, these enquiries show that in this appalling visitation of Providence forty-three thousand natives were drowned; and more than six hundred thousand huts, the dwellings of three millions of people, were utterly destroyed.

3. A FEW SPECIAL FACTS.

a. In a case of burglary in a certain village, thirty-two witnesses were to be sent up to the District Court; after the cyclone only two of them were forthcoming!

b. In the town of Tumlook, out of 1,400 houses only twenty-seven remained standing.

c. On Saugor Island, 3,565 houses were destroyed; and 7,000 cattle, and more than 5,000 natives, were drowned.

d. Near Diamond Harbour, for six miles, no one could go fifty yards without seeing a dead body.

e. Three hundred boats were lost at Calna; and at Bograh, far to the north, the whole bazar was laid in ruins.

f. The Government loss in buildings near Calcutta amounts to 55,000*l*.

4. THE SHIPPING AT CALCUTTA.

Ships in port on the 5th of October ...	195
Ships not damaged ...	23
„ damaged slightly ...	39
„ damaged severely ...	97
„ totally lost ...	36
	—172

The mail-steamer *Persia*, coming in from Rangoon, founded with all her passengers and crew at the Sandheads. Two pilot brigs were totally lost, with all on board, and seven others were more or less injured.

Within a fortnight of the storm, 101 ships had been got off shore.

There were twenty-six salt-ships in the river at the time. To save themselves they threw overboard 7,200 tons of salt.

5. MEASURES OF RELIEF.

Immediately after the hurricane, a public meeting, held in Calcutta, laid the foundation of a relief fund. The Parsee gentlemen of Bombay at once contributed to it nearly 10,000*l*., and the total sum subscribed amounts to 37,500*l*.; Prompt measures were taken for supplying

the destitute peasantry along the Lower Hoogly, whose food, water, and houses had all been swept away. Several expeditions visited them in the course of a few weeks, and carried stores to the value of 12,000*l*.. The stores included 500 tons of rice, 100 tons of peas, oil, salt, 128,000 yards of cloth, 1,750 pieces of blanket, coir rope, spades, hatchets, and string. The energy exhibited in this relief was beyond all praise, and the relief afforded was very great.

In distributing their funds the relief committee largely employed the services of missionaries, as well as of the magistrates and native officials. The missionaries distributed 3,670*l*.. The Sailors' Home Committee received from the General Committee 2,500*l*.. towards the relief of the 800 sailors thrown out of employ. The Merchant Seaman's Act proved a great boon to the port, as the Government had power to send the men home, every soundship carrying extra hands at a rate fixed by the Act. The Government also did much to help the peasantry by employing every one who applied for work, in repairing the embankments, clearing tanks, digging wells and cutting drains. Food was freely distributed in large quantities, until the new harvest was gathered in, and bazars were reopened. During the last two months the country has been reviving, though a great deal of sickness still prevails.

Parliamentary Proceedings.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MR. FARNALL.

On Thursday, in answer to Lord Fortescue, Lord GRANVILLE explained that Mr. Farnall, who had recently conducted an inquiry in the Holborn Union, was still employed as a Commissioner in the cotton districts of Lancashire, but that for his services there he received nothing but his personal expenses. Lord DERBY bore testimony to the efficiency of Mr. Farnall's exertions as a Commissioner, and trusted he would not be recalled till the Committee had closed its labours.

THE RED RIVER SETTLEMENT.

Lord WHARFCLIFFE inquired what was the state of the question of the establishment of a Crown colony in the north-west territory of British North America. To the union with Canada there were several objections. He therefore preferred the plan of establishing an independent colony in a region that possessed a gold-producing soil, and across which might be opened a communication with our Eastern dominions.

Lord GRANVILLE admitted the importance of some arrangement being made with regard to these territories. The Hudson's Bay Company, in 1863, submitted to the Home Government the plan of a boundary, but it would have imposed such a heavy expense on the Treasury that the Government did not submit it to Parliament. Another plan was proposed by the Government to the Hudson's Bay Company that would have obviated this objection of expense, but while the negotiations were pending the Government of Canada refused to join in the arrangement. The company had made yet another proposal, which the Colonial Office had communicated to the Government of Canada, but to this no answer had been received. In the present state of Canadian affairs it would be impossible for her Majesty's Government to advise the establishment of a separate jurisdiction in those territories. Lord SHAFTESBURY thought the question important, and urged it on the consideration of the Government. Lord AIRLIE pointed out several objections to establishing a Crown colony, independent of Canada, in the territory described. Their Lordships adjourned at a few minutes before six.

On Friday evening the LORD CHANCELLOR brought in a bill to enable clients and solicitors to make special contracts as to the remuneration of the latter. The bill was read a first time.

THE SEWAGE QUESTION.

The Earl of LONGFORD called attention to the report of the committee of the House of Commons in reference to the utilisation of sewage. The subject was one of great importance, especially as regarded London. The Metropolitan Board of Works have accepted a plan which deserved to succeed. The value of sewage was differently estimated. His own experiments were satisfactory, but at present our knowledge went no further than that it would be worth the while of agriculturists to use the sewage, and that it would leave a good percentage of profit. Some general measure on the subject was desirable, and he wished to know what were the intentions of the Government on the subject.

The Earl of ESSEX had used sewage at 1*½*d. per ton, and found it answer. In his opinion it ought to be applied in large quantities over small areas.

Earl GRANVILLE said it was certain that the sewage could be advantageously utilised in agriculture. A bill on the subject had been introduced by Lord Robert Montagu, and the Government were in communication with that noble lord respecting it.

The House adjourned at five minutes past six o'clock.

On Monday, Lord TAUNTON presented petitions from the colony of Victoria praying for the cessation of transportation to Australia. He thought the Government had acted most wisely in resolving that the system of transportation should cease in three years. Earl GRANVILLE said the continuation of transportation to Western Australia was impossible, and the feeling of the colonists was unanimous on the subject.

In reply to the Marquis of Clanricarde, Earl

GRANVILLE said the Government had determined to have copies made of the Carew and Carte MSS. in the Lambeth and Bodleian Libraries, that they might be sent to Ireland.

The House adjourned at twenty minutes past six o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On Wednesday, Mr. SCOURFIELD moved the second reading of the Private Bills Costs Bill. The object of the measure was to provide that where the proceedings of parties in reference to a railway bill appeared to have been vexatious costs should be awarded against them. After considerable discussion, Mr. M. GIBSON said he thought the principle of the bill was very doubtful, but after the expression of opinion by the House he should not oppose it. The bill was read a second time, and on the motion of Mr. GIBSON, referred to a select committee.

Mr. DENMAN moved the second reading of the Felony and Misdemeanour Evidence and Practice Bill, the object of which was to assimilate the practice in civil and criminal cases. After a few words from Mr. ROEBUCK, Sir G. GREY on the part of the Government gave his assent to the bill, which was read a second time.

Mr. E. CRAUFORD obtained leave to bring in a bill to allow affirmations or declarations to be made instead of oaths in all civil and criminal proceedings in Scotland.

The House adjourned at twenty minutes past two o'clock.

THE NEW ROAD TO RELIEVE PARK-LANE.

On Thursday, Sir J. FERGUSSON moved that the Piccadilly and Park-lane New Road Bill be read a second time that day six months. The hon. gentleman was of opinion that there were other and more convenient channels for relieving the traffic of Park-lane; as, for example, the continuation of Awdley-street into Piccadilly and the widening of Park-lane at the Piccadilly end. Mr. TITE defended the particular scheme of improvement contemplated by the bill, and minutely explained its advantages. He considered that the expense of widening Park-lane, estimated at 100,000*l*., constituted an insuperable objection to the proposal. Mr. HARVEY LEWIS was in favour of constructing a road right across the park to the Serpentine. Mr. COWPER expressed himself favourable to the widening of Park-lane, but would vote for the second reading of the bill, reserving to the Government the right of considering the matter in committee. The amendment was withdrawn, and the bill read a second time.

THE REVISED CODE.

Mr. ADDERLEY gave notice that on going into committee of supply he should move—

That this House is of opinion that so much of Article 51 of the Revised Education Code, 1861, as appropriates private endowments in reduction of public grants, should be cancelled in respect of all schools receiving aid from the Treasury, provided that such endowments, with other private contributions and the grant together, should in no case exceed the rate of 30*s*. per scholar.

THE PROPOSED NEW COURTS OF JUSTICE.

On the motion for going into committee on the Courts of Justice Building Bill, Sir H. WILLOUGHBY, who doubted whether the Government had a right to touch the suitors' fund, and expressed his incredulity as to the proposed expenditure being limited to a million and a-half, moved that the House go into committee that day six months. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL controverted the hon. baronet's statements, and declared that the subject of the fund had been thoroughly exhausted by inquiry and information laid before the House. The amendment was rejected, and all the clauses were agreed to, whereupon the Chairman, amid cheers, was ordered to report the bill to the House.

BANK-NOTES ISSUE.

On the motion for the second reading of the Bank-notes Issue Bill, Mr. BECHANAN moved that the second reading be postponed until an inquiry had taken place into the working and effect of certain Acts regulating banks of issue in the United Kingdom. A lengthened discussion ensued, in which Mr. Buxton, Sir E. Colebrooke, Mr. Hubbard, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Malins, Mr. Goschen, and Mr. T. Baring took part. The amendment was withdrawn, and the bill read a second time.

The other orders were then disposed of, and the House adjourned at half-past eight o'clock.

THE LICENSING QUESTION.

On Friday, at the time of private business, on the motion for reading the Liverpool Licensing Bill a second time, Mr. LAWSON objected to it, as proposing to deal with a great public question in a private bill. He moved as an amendment—

That the granting of licences for the sale of intoxicating liquors is a subject which ought not to be at present dealt with by any private bill.

Mr. HORSFALL expressed his surprise that the bill should be opposed. It placed a check on the undue licensing of public-houses, and proposed a uniform licence for the sale of excisable liquors, thus abolishing the distinction between public-houses and beer-houses. Moreover, it carried out seven of the recommendations of the committee of 1853. Mr. W. E. FORSTER opposed the bill, on the ground that it dealt with a public question. The Government ought to have brought in a general measure on the subject. Sir G. GREY thought the bill was founded on right principles. If it worked well in Liverpool, there would be a much better chance of passing a general bill on the subject. Mr. ROEBUCK thought the right hon. baronet was not doing his duty in supporting a public measure brought in under the disguise of a private bill. Lord STANLEY strongly supported the bill as a step to a general measure.

Mr. AYRTON said the bill proposed to increase the amount paid for licences in Liverpool to 30%. That only meant that the publicans would have to put more water into the beer to pay the extra licence. The SPEAKER ruled that the bill could be proceeded with as a private bill. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said no taxation was raised by the bill. The Liverpool authorities thought it a desirable measure, and he should support the second reading. Mr. G. HARDY opposed it. The amendment was agreed to, and the bill rejected.

PROTECTION OF VOTERS.

In reply to Mr. Berkeley, Sir G. GREY said the Government did not intend to bring in a bill for the protection of voters at elections. Mr. BERKELEY gave notice that he should bring forward a measure in the shape of a Ballot Bill.

STATE OF IRELAND.

On the motion to go into committee of supply, Mr. HENNESSY moved—"That this House observes with regret the decline of the population of Ireland, and will readily support her Majesty's Government in any well-devised measure to stimulate the profitable employment of the people;" and that an address to the Crown be prepared, founded on the foregoing resolution. It had been admitted that the condition of Ireland was deplorable, and a great deal of the misery was owing to the fact that Ireland was legislated for upon principles the reverse of those on which they legislated for England. This was the case with regard to the Poor Law, public education, and the tenure of the land. So far as the character of the soil and the physical qualities of the labourers were concerned, Ireland had advantages over England. But while the mining wealth of the latter country was abnormally great, that of the former was abnormally small. There had been a decrease in the productions of Ireland in the last year. The area sown with wheat in 1864 was less, according to the circular of Messrs. Sturge, by 29,000 acres than in 1863. This very much understated the case, for a Parliamentary return showed that in 1864 there was an increase over 1863 of 58,000 acres of bog, waste, and uncultivated land. In Parliament the right hon. baronet (Sir R. Peel) had said emigration was the safety-valve of Ireland. In Dublin he had said he did not admit that emigration was the safety-valve, but that employment for the labourers was to be desired. The manner in which it was proposed to employ these labourers was in arterial drainage; but the Government had done nothing in it. They had spent large sums of money in Scotland, and he thought something should be done for Ireland. He hoped his motion, which was drawn in no party spirit, would be carried.

Colonel FRENCH seconded the motion, and urged that something should be done by the Government to improve the River Shannon.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER thought it would be most undesirable for the House to express vaguely and indefinitely its readiness to support the Government in well-devised measures to give employment to the people of Ireland. There was mere sentiment, and might create expectations which could not be fulfilled. In his opinion what was called "justice to Ireland" depended upon the application to the people of that country of the same principles—not necessarily in every case in the same form, but the same principles—that were applied to the rest of her Majesty's subjects. He denied that Scotland had received an unfair share of the public expenditure. He did not believe there was expended in Scotland one-fourth of what was raised in that country. He proceeded to show that Ireland enjoyed exemption from several taxes which were paid in this country, and concluded by expressing an opinion that the difficulties of Ireland were in progress of diminution.

Mr. BAGWELL contended that the tone of the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer was hostile to Ireland. That country was suffering deeply; and, he said it with regret, he believed the misery that was being endured by the people had driven loyalty out of their minds. They regarded England as an oppressor, and looked to America as the land from which they might obtain redress. Mr. DAWSON thought the distress in Ireland was mainly owing to bad seasons. He advised the Government to act fairly between all sects, and deprecated the forming of associations which would only promote party and religious bitterness. Sir P. O'BRIEN said the only way to ameliorate the condition of Ireland was an amendment of the land law. Colonel DUNNE declared that Ireland was taxed at a higher rate than England. She was not only losing her people but her money, and was yearly becoming poorer. Sir F. HEYGATE attributed the distress in Ireland to free trade. He should not vote for the motion. Mr. BENTINCK expressed similar opinions. Mr. MONSELL showed that Ireland was gradually sinking instead of prospering. Sir R. PEEL contended that there were evidences of progress, and quoted statistics in proof of this. But he would frankly own that the state of Ireland was not all that could be desired. ("Hear, hear," from Mr. Hennessy.)

There are some districts which, unhappily, have not enjoyed a full share of the prosperity and progress which are visible elsewhere. But I put it to the House whether the statistics I have quoted do not afford good grounds for an expression of satisfaction with the general state of the country. ("Hear, hear.") I rejoice over the advance that has already been made, and I believe that still better days are in store for Ireland. Why, then, should you deny the Government the right of congratulating themselves and the country on the results already apparent?

He was satisfied that the House would at least give the present Government credit for honest and earnest

endeavours to promote the material improvement of the country. ("Hear, hear.")

Lord R. CECIL gave an amusing description of Sir Robert Peel's formula:—

The Irish members have come to the House and have said,—"Our constituents are starving. We have the testimony of the priests, who know the people, that they are starving. We live among our constituents ourselves, and we know their distress." On the other hand, the Chief Secretary has replied, "I assure you, my hon. friends, that you are entirely wrong, and that if the people of Ireland think they are starving they make the greatest mistake in the world. I have been sitting in my office and studying columns of figures—(Hear, hear)—and I can assure you that the Irish people, whatever their stomachs may seem to represent to them, really are not starving. The hon. members for Queen's County and Clonmel may talk of the distress of their constituents, but I have been in Dublin Bay, I have been corresponding with the fishermen, and I know that the fisheries in Dublin Bay are first-rate; and as long as the fisheries in Dublin Bay are first-rate, Queen's County and Clonmel cannot starve." (Laughter.)

He proceeded to discuss the question of tenant-right, and argued that while every protection should be given to the rights of landlords, due consideration should be awarded to that injustice to tenants which had arisen out of the penal legislation which had at one time prevailed in regard to Ireland. He controverted the mode in which Mr. Gladstone laid down the principle of refusing any aid by grants of public money to Ireland, characterising it as too extensive and sweeping. Arguing by illustration that the absence of prosperity in Ireland was not owing to the existence of the Celtic race, or to Roman Catholicism, he attributed it mainly to the system of government of that country by England.

Mr. GREGORY, fully agreeing in the existence of distress in Ireland, and repudiating any general adhesion to the principle of direct material aid from Government, suggested that the only chance which Irish members of the Liberal party had of being re-elected at the next election was by disavowing allegiance to her Majesty's Ministers—

The right hon. gentleman said that for thirty-four years the Liberal party had been doing their best for Ireland. The Irish were not generally considered an ungrateful people, yet little evidence of their appreciation of the benefits conferred upon them by the Liberal party would be afforded by the state of the Ministerial benches after the next general election, when scarcely an Irishman would take a seat where a few years ago numbers of enthusiastic Irish members were to be found. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) A few Irish members, supported by territorial connection or by great popularity, might still remain on the Government side, but the bulk of the others must, if they would save themselves, disavow all connection with that party. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) He wished completely and fully to exonerate his right hon. friend (Sir R. Peel) from any animadversions which had been directed against the Government, for he believed a more laborious or more earnest man had never before filled his office. (Hear.) Still, he believed the right hon. gentleman obtained his information from wrong quarters, which prevented him from carrying out his anxious and earnest desire for improving the condition of the country.

The two great points necessary for the prosperity of Ireland were the improvement of the harbours and the drainage of the land; but when the people of Galway wished to borrow money and offered to give ample security for the purpose of improving their harbour and making a graving dock capable of receiving the largest Atlantic steamers, the commissioners were instructed to look very closely into the details of the proposed undertaking, as the people of Galway might have some ulterior views in the matter. As far as the physical condition of the country was concerned, it was evident that Ireland was passing through a transition state.

From an agricultural it was changing to a pastoral country, and the process naturally entailed disaster upon many of the smaller occupiers. Free-trader as he had always been, God forbid that he should now utter a word in derogation of that policy; but remembering that Ireland alone, of all her Majesty's dominions, had suffered depression in consequence, there were obviously reasons for dealing in a liberal spirit with any just request that might be put forward.

Mr. MAGUIRE corroborated the representations of the state of distress in Ireland, and of a feeling of disaffection pervading the country. He called on the Government to deal with the land question in a liberal spirit; though this would not meet all the wants of Ireland, it would do much to advance its prosperity, and would tend to stop the stream of emigration.

It was a reproach to the Government that they should not make the people happy and contented in their own country, instead of letting them leave in armies, as the noble lord the member for Stamford said. All the intimations from America proved the necessity of cultivating the good-will of the Irish people, for in the event of a war with America we should have the Irish population in that country against us; and an invasion of Ireland by them would be hailed by the people. Let them obviate and prevent that danger. Let them adopt the course pointed out by the noble lord (Lord R. Cecil) who spoke as an honest and intelligent man on this subject. The quotation of figures, such as made by the right hon. gentleman (Sir R. Peel), was only a miserable statesmanship. The Irish people were discontented—that was the fact—and the next general election would show that unless the Government altered their policy they would not continue to sit on those benches. (Hear, hear.) He was bound to speak the truth, and he had spoken it. The Government had yet offered to them a *locus penitentis*, and he adjured them to take advantage of it.

On the motion of The O'CONNOR DON, the debate was adjourned.

The other orders having been disposed of, the House adjourned at twenty minutes past twelve o'clock.

STRENGTH OF THE ARMY.

On Monday, in answer to Colonel Gilpin, the Marquis of HARTINGTON said that it was true that on the 1st of the month the army was below the establishment by 4,000 men, but at the same time it must be recollected that that was the exact number which it was proposed to retain this year.

TOWNLEY.

In answer to Mr. Hardcastle, Sir G. GREY said, in reference to George Victor Townley, a prisoner at Pentonville, being allowed to read such books as "Silvio Pellico," and "Gil Blas," that the late governor had allowed a violation of the rule that prisoners should only be permitted to read works contained in the library, and selected by the directors of prisons, by allowing books to be sent to prisoners by their friends, but the new governor had put a stop to the practice. The works in question were not in the library.

IRISH LEGISLATION.

In answer to Mr. Scully, Sir G. GREY said that the Lord Chancellor proposed to bring in a Bill for the Registration of Titles to Lands in Ireland.

STATE OF IRELAND—ADJOURNED DEBATE.

The adjourned debate on Mr. Hennessy's motion on the state of Ireland was resumed by

Mr. ROEBUCK, who characterised the speeches of Irish members on the former evening as mere whinnies for money, and the point of the debate was a quarrel with the Government of England, and he ridiculed the variety and puniness of the remedies for the acknowledged state of Ireland which had been proposed. The real mischief was that that country was divided against itself into the Protestant, the Roman Catholic, and the Republican or Fenian party. With the two first there might be discussion, but the third, which meant rebellion and separation, he was prepared to put down by the sword. He contended that from the time of Catholic Emancipation Parliament has done everything possible to do justice to Ireland, and that country was now as well governed as any in the world. The hon. gentleman eulogised the present Chief Secretary's intentions towards Ireland as straightforward and honest—the proof of which was that he was found fault with by both parties. The only remedy for the evils of Ireland was the abandoning of party prejudices and sectarian differences amongst her people.

Lord DUNKELIN denied that Ireland came whinnying for money. What was wanted was assistance to carry out great public works of drainage, &c. The distress in the south and west of Ireland was very great.

Sir H. CAIRNS was of opinion that, however the emigration from Ireland was to be regretted, we could not be sorry that in the present condition of that country, there were only five millions instead of eight millions of the people living there. The hon. gentleman then adverted to some criticism on him in reference to a recent debate on the Belfast riots, uttered by Mr. Roebuck, and proceeded to reply in caustic and sarcastic terms to those personal observations; and vindicated the people of Ireland, of all parties, from the charge which had been made against them, of coming with mendicant whines to Parliament for public money.

Mr. LOWE, while fully admitting the sadness of the fact of the emigration of the population of Ireland, yet could not lament its existence, as it tended to remove numbers from abject misery at home to comfort and competence abroad, while it operated in a degree to give ease to the labour market, and so far to improve the condition of those who remained. Having argumentatively disposed of those grievances which are ordinarily adduced as the causes of distress in Ireland, he laid down that one of the real causes of the decline of its resources was, that Ireland being a purely agricultural country had to contend with adverse climatic influences; that the growth of cereal crops having been fostered by the protective laws on foreign corn, the repeal of those laws found a factitious agriculture and a forced population; and the result was a reaction, when, there being nothing to fall back upon, no manufacturing industry to sustain the population which had grown up, it was becoming a pastoral instead of an agricultural country. The mischief which had been done it was impossible to undo by means of legislation. There was much also depressing in its tendency, in the maintenance of a Church which was not that of the majority of the people; and in the identification of the executive Government with the ascendancy of party.

Mr. O'REILLY declared that the last speech was full of fallacies. He suggested that one of the first grievances to be remedied was the Established Church in Ireland. The LORD ADVOCATE contended that Scotland was more heavily taxed than Ireland. The real remedy for the misery of the people was only to be found in their own energy. Mr. M'MAHON said Ireland was rendered miserable by the violation on the part of the Government of all principles of political economy. To absenteeism many of the evils which afflicted her were to be traced, and she was most unfairly taxed. The giant evil was, however, the Established Church, which ought to be abolished. Mr. DUNLOP traced the misery of Ireland chiefly to the want of self-reliance on the part of her people. The debate was continued by Mr. Lefroy, Mr. Pollard-Urquhart, and Sir H. Bruce.

Sir G. GREY admitted the importance of the question in debate, and desired that it should be used to express the sympathy of the House with Ireland; and proceeded to argue that the evils under which that country suffered were of such a nature, material, climatic, and social, that they could not be

reached by legislative action. Nevertheless, in regard to grants of money, although there was no intention on the part of the Government to invite applications for such grants, if they were based on sound principles and calculated to produce permanent improvement, there would be no disposition to reject them.

Sir S. NORTHGOTE elaborately discussed the subject of debate, and showed that, whereas of late years the taxation of England had increased twenty-seven per cent., that of Ireland had been augmented fifty-two per cent. He advised that the motion should not be pressed. Mr. Caird, Mr. Peacocke, and Mr. Blake having spoken,

Lord PALMERSTON observed that the object of the amendment was twofold—first, to obtain an expression of regret at the decline of the population of Ireland, and then to ask for measures to stimulate the employment of the people. In the abstract it must be a subject of regret to witness the exodus of a people, but some years ago the main evil of Ireland was said to be a redundant population, and emigration was suggested as the remedy, and it might well be taken that those who had left the country were improved in condition. Therefore, what was to be regretted was the state of the country which compelled such an emigration. He denied that the boasted fertility of Ireland was either universal or widespread, nor was it possible by legislation to counteract climatic and geographical influences. As to tenant-right, it would be landlords' wrong, and while it might cause landlords to emigrate, it would not keep tenants at home. The great want was an influx of capital into Ireland accompanied by due security for that capital; and if the religious and political feuds of that country were to cease, and the capitalists of England and Scotland could come to believe that they could find cheap labour with profitable use, and due safety for their capital, thenceforward might be dated the improvement and the ultimate prosperity of that country. He offered to support the committee on Irish affairs which sat last year.

On a division the amendment was rejected by 109 to 31.

The other orders were disposed of, and the House adjourned at five minutes past twelve o'clock.

THE FUNERAL OF CARDINAL WISEMAN.

On Thursday the body of Cardinal Wiseman was solemnly buried at the Roman Catholic Cemetery of St. Mary, at Kensal-green, amid such circumstances of ritual pomp as, since the Reformation at least, have never been seen in this country. The *Times* reporter thus describes the scene within the Moorfields Chapel:—

The interior of the chapel presented a solemn and impressive appearance. Its architecture, always of an effective kind, had been so treated as to make its mournful gloom almost touching. From the series of large windows on either side the daylight had been entirely excluded by folded hangings of thick black cloth. Every other aperture through which the light could enter had been closed with equal care, save only that which poured down from the roof at the back of the high altar, and sheds a strange misty light upon Algeo's great picture of the Crucifixion, making that singularly vivid fresco almost painful yesterday from its apparent reality. Every other part of the building, every column or carving, every picture or statue, even to the small pictures which mark "the stations of the cross," the high and side altars, the pulpit and font, and the tall sombre-looking archiepiscopal throne of the late Cardinal, were hidden away under the black and yellow symbols of Roman mourning. This sombre drapery, coupled with the careful exclusion of daylight, made the whole interior of the building as dark as a cavern, so dark, indeed, that even the full glare of all the lighted chandeliers did no more than feebly illuminate the gloom, and serve to show, though not distinguish, the throng of persons with which the whole place was filled. On the left of the high altar was a small raised gallery, draped, like all the rest, with black and yellow, for the accommodation of Ambassadors and their representatives, and a corresponding, though a larger, enclosure on the opposite side, was set apart for peers and peeresses. A very large space in the centre of the chapel was reserved for the Roman Catholic dignitaries and clergymen who were to assist on this solemn occasion, and in the midst of this lay the splendid bier, on which was placed the coffin of the late Cardinal. In the midst of the general gloom this mournful though gorgeous object looked singularly impressive. Surrounded by nearly a hundred tall massive wax candles, the light from which illumined all the rich decorations of the bier, and the still richer pall and armorial bearings with which it was emblazoned, it formed the centre of light and colour in the whole building. The bier was covered with violet cloth, bound and richly embroidered with gold. The outer coffin, which is of very great size, is of polished oak, richly ornamented, but no part of this external casing was yesterday visible, the heavy cloth of gold and velvet pall covering it entirely. Around the black border of this were placed the large heraldic escutcheons of the late Cardinal, with their impressive mottoes, "*Omnia pro Christo*." At the foot of the coffin, the head of which, as denoting the high ecclesiastical rank of the deceased in the Church, was turned towards the altar, placed on a black velvet cushion, was the late Cardinal's hat, turned upside down, with its long, crimson silk tassels drooping down over the coffin at either side. At the foot of the bier, and all around it, on a series of slight ledges or steps to admit of their rising above each other, tier over tier, was an immense number of smaller candles to be lighted when the last "precatory absolution" was given.

Such, in brief, were the general arrangements, though it is impossible by a more recapitulation of their detail to give an adequate idea of the impressiveness of the whole scene, the more than sepulchral gloom of the building, and the solemn brilliancy of the central spot where the body was laid. Ten o'clock was the hour fixed

for the Requiem Mass, but it was 11 before it began. By that hour every spot in the building was occupied. The ex-Queen of the French, Marie Amelie, the widow of Louis Philippe, was represented by her Chamberlain, Count de Chabannes, who sat on the north side of the choir. In the Ambassadors' seats were, the French Ambassador, Prince De la Tour d'Auvergne; the Minister from Belgium, the Spanish Minister, and the representatives of nearly all the Catholic Powers of Europe. Among the nobility and persons of distinction present were—the Marchioness of Londonderry and of Lothian, the Earls of Courtenay, Malmesbury, Kenmare, Orford, and Buchan; the Dowager Countesses of Buchan and Newbury; Viscounts Fielding, Campden, Southwell, and Castlerosse; Lords Edward Howard, Stafford, Petre, Lovat, and Herries; Count Torre Diaz and Count Eyre; Sir G. Bowyer, Sir Hungerford Pollen, Lady Catherine Berkeley, Lady Milford, the Hon Mrs. Agar Ellis, the Hon. Miss Calthorpe, the Hon. Montague Mostyn, Mr. Justice Shee, Mr. O'Reilly, M.P., Mr. Pope Hennessy, M.P., Chevalier de Zuleta, Mr. Justice O'Hagan, Dr. O'Connor, &c. The great bulk of the congregation was apparently composed of the leading Roman Catholic families, though there was also a numerous attendance of Protestants, both ladies and gentlemen, who seemed as much impressed by the solemnity of the service as any of the regular members of the Church.

Before eleven o'clock the centre space reserved for the representatives of the Roman Catholic clergy from all parts of England was occupied by about 200 priests, doctors of divinity, and canons. The canons and monsignors wore their rich violet and lace robes, the priests either their plain white surplices or long black silk gowns. Among them were also representatives of the chief religious orders, whose dresses contrasted strangely with the rich tasteful robes of the canons. At eleven o'clock the procession, consisting of the chief dignitaries of the Roman Church, began to file in two and two from the sacristy up to the steps of the high altar. First came a large and, as it proved, an exquisitely well-drilled choir of priests and chanters, all in white surplices, who were followed by the acolytes, the thurifers, or censer-bearers, and the cross-bearer. These, again, were followed by more canons in their robes, and, lastly, by the chief members of the new Catholic hierarchy walking two and two, and headed, it was stated, by Archbishop Cullen, who, as the Legate, takes precedence of all other ecclesiastics of the Roman Church in Ireland. All the bishops wore mitres, not the costly and magnificent state headress which is usually assumed, but the mitre of plain white and gold used on these occasions at masses for the dead. All, however, were alike attired in the most gorgeous vestments, wearing superb copes of cloth of silver shot with violet over all. In the dim and misty gloom of the interior and amid the silence with which they passed slowly and noiselessly in front of the carpeted altar, they seemed more like shadows or a vision of some bygone pageantry of Rome than anything one might expect to see in London in the midst of this prosaic nineteenth century. Yet, strange as the scene was to the eyes of the Londoners, none could deny the grand and mysterious solemnity of its effect, and the most breathless silence reigned throughout the building as the rich crowd of ecclesiastics, now nearly 300 in number, wound slowly and silently to their places in the gloom of the sanctuary, where at last their presence was only dimly indicated by the pale gleam of the mitres and the glitter of the copes as the glare of lights from round the coffin reached them.

The "Requiem Mass" was then performed. After this magnificent funeral chant the Collect and Epistle were recited by Bishop Morris.

At this portion of the ceremony an extraordinary effect was produced by all the great choir of priests and dignitaries lighting candles to read and follow the music of the *Dies Iree*, which was next to be sung. Without such extra aid it would have been difficult for any in the gloom to read at all, and the effect of this sudden illumination, which showed distinctly the features and rich dresses of the whole throng of superbly-clad ecclesiastics who rose to recite the hymn, was one of the most singular and impressive features of the whole ceremony. Then for the first time the magnificent vestments could be fully seen, and as the assemblage of every rank in the Church of Rome, from mendicant friars to bishops and archbishops, stood around the coffin to join in that great chant of mournful praise, the scene became one of such grandeur as almost approached the sublime of stately religious ritual. The magnificent *chorale* of this great song of fear and entreaty was given as it has certainly never been given before in England, and there was a positive murmur among the congregation as its long, sad, wailing chorus closed at last in intervals of melancholy sound.

After the offertory, the remainder of the Requiem Mass was soon concluded, and amid the most profound silence Dr. Manning, once, in years gone by, the Archdeacon of Chichester, in the Church of England, ascended the pulpit to deliver an address, which was scarcely so much a funeral sermon as a rather diffused and ill-connected biographical sketch of the late Cardinal. He wore the violet and lace robe of a Monsignore. Dr. Manning reviewed the early life, early studies, and early desire of the late Cardinal to labour for the conversion of England, and told a few brief anecdotes of his learning and his talents, though these last, said the speaker, were the least of his claims. It was in the modesty, the kindness, and earnest trust and truth of his great heart, his real humility and deep trusting piety, that his chief claims to love and admiration lay. Alluding to the noble magnanimity of the English people, and the kindly tributes of honour and regret which, on the news of the Cardinal's death, they had almost universally paid to the memory of their eminent fellow-countryman, Dr. Manning went on briefly to notice some severe strictures which had appeared on the deceased in a contemporary.

"I have never," he said, "known a good man so misunderstood by the public. That misunderstanding, however, must, no doubt, to some extent, be attributed to his own character. This man, who was supposed to be so stately and so self-sustained, was the shyest, the most modest, the most bashful man I ever met. He had the shyness of a boy with the bashfulness of a maiden. His tenderness and his benignity were perpetually

manifested in his respect for women and his love for children. I never knew a man speak of others, even when they deserved severity, with so much measured tenderness. With his large charity was united the most profound humility. A greater humility in so great a man it has never been my lot to witness. Another remarkable trait in his character was, that for the misfortune of others, while he gave them his deepest sympathy and assistance, he never shed a tear; but at the mention of any great act—of anything heroic or magnanimous, the tears sprang at once to his eyes."

After a brief reference to the mild and patient fortitude with which the Cardinal had borne the long agony of his painful dissolution, the Rev. Doctor somewhat abruptly concluded an address which had occupied more than an hour in its delivery.

After the sermon all the candles round the bier were lighted, and the whole concourse of ecclesiastics assembled about it while the solemn ritual of giving absolution to the departed was gone through. Archbishop Cullen, it was stated, was the first to give absolution, sprinkling the coffin with holy water, and incensing it from the thurible, while the low chaunt of the choir went on. Bishop Morris gave the final absolution, and with the chaunting of the "Requiescat in Pace," one of the most solemn ceremonies which the Roman Catholic Church has celebrated in England since the Reformation was brought to a conclusion.

The procession to Kensal-green was then formed. It was of great extent—some say covering as much as two miles from end to end. Little order was, however, preserved. The streets, windows, &c., on the long line of route were crowded with spectators. The assemblage of people was immense, and among the mass the Irish physiognomy greatly predominated. The procession passed down the City-road, along Old-street and Goswell-street. At the Angel, Islington, the throng of spectators was very great, also along the New-road. Many hundreds of thousands must have been in the procession, which did not reach the cemetery till five o'clock. The service in the cemetery was very brief.

First came the procession of priests in white surplices, two and two, chanting as they advanced, and bearing small wax tapers, unlighted, in their hands. In the midst came the canons of the diocese, and acolytes bearing incense and holy water. To the number of more than a hundred they came, and, standing round the open grave, lighted their candles, and sang the "Miserere." Then came other higher dignitaries of the Church, preceded by bearers of two large lighted candles, with a crucifix borne high between them, and with acolytes waving incense. Then followed the coffin, borne from the hearse by a small carriage made for the purpose. At the head of the grave, as this was lowered, all the bishops stood as the last solemn words were recited in Latin, and the body was committed to the earth. The whole service scarcely lasted twenty minutes.

On its conclusion numbers approached to look into the grave. A vault and mortuary chapel have yet to be built for the reception of the remains.

The *Owl* says that the three names sent in by Cardinal Wiseman, from which to nominate his successor, are those of Dr. Grant, Bishop of Southwark; Dr. Clifford, Bishop of Clifton; and Dr. Ullathorne, Bishop of Birmingham.

Cardinal Wiseman's last words, or among his last words—addressed smilingly to those who stood around his death-bed—are said to have been these:—"Well, here am I at last, like a child—going home for the holidays!"

THE PREFACE TO THE "HISTORY OF JULIUS CÆSAR."

The following is the preface to the Emperor Napoleon's "*History of Julius Cæsar*," as published in the *Moniteur*:—

Historical truth ought to be no less sacred than religion. If the precepts of faith elevate our soul above the interests of this world, the lessons of history in their turn inspire us with the love of what is beautiful and just, the hatred of that which opposes an obstacle to the progress of humanity. To be profitable these lessons require certain conditions. It is necessary that the facts should be reproduced with rigorous exactitude, that political or social changes should be philosophically analysed, that the piquant attraction of details in the life of public men should not turn away attention from the part they have played in politics, and should not cause their providential mission to be forgotten.

Too frequently the writer presents to us the different phases of history as spontaneous events, without searching for their true origin and their natural deduction in previous facts: similarly to the painter who, in reproducing the accidents of nature, only looks to their picturesque effect without being able to give their scientific demonstration in his picture. The historian must be more than a painter: like the geologist who explains the phenomena of the globe, he ought to disclose the secret of the transformation of society.

But what is the method of arriving at truth in writing history? It is to follow the rules of logic. Let us first take for certain that a great effect is always due to a great cause, never to a small one: in other words, an accident, apparently insignificant, never produces important results without a pre-existing cause which has permitted this slight accident to bring about a great effect. The spark only kindles a vast conflagration when it falls upon combustible materials previously collected. Montesquieu thus confirms the idea. "It is not fortune," he says, "which rules the world. . . . There are general causes, either moral or physical, which operate in every monarchy—raise it, maintain it, or overthrow it. All accidents are subject to these causes; and if the chance of a battle—that is to say, a particular cause—has ruined the State, there was a general cause which operated so that the State must perish by a single

battle. In a word, the principal cause draws after it all the particular accidents."

If, during nearly 1,000 years, the Romans always issued triumphantly from the hardest trials and the greatest perils, it was because a general cause existed which made them always superior to their enemies, and did not permit defeats and partial misfortunes to entail the fall of their empire. If the Romans, after having given to the world the spectacle of a people constituting itself and growing great by liberty, have learned, since Cæsar's day, to fall blindly into slavery, it is because there existed a general reason which fatally prevented the Republic from returning to the purity of its ancient institutions; it is because the new necessities and interests of society in labour required other means of being satisfied. Equally as logic shows us in important events their reason for being imperative, just so we must recognise both in the long duration of an institution the proof of its excellence, and in the incontestable influence of a man upon his age the proof of his genius.

The task consists, then, in seeking the vital element which made up the strength of the institution as well as the predominating idea which caused men to act. In following this rule we shall avoid the errors of those historians who gather facts transmitted by preceding ages without co-ordinating them according to their philosophical importance—thus glorifying that which merits blame and leaving in shadow that which requires light. It is not a minute analysis of the Roman organisation which will enable us to comprehend the duration of so great an empire, but the profound examination of the spirit of its institutions; nor is it the detailed recital of the slightest actions of a distinguished man which will reveal to us the secret of his ascendancy, but the attentive search into the elevated motives of his conduct.

When extraordinary facts bear witness to eminent genius, what can be more contrary to good sense than to attribute to it all the passions and all the sentiments of mediocrity? What can be more erroneous than not to recognise the pre-eminence of those privileged beings who appear from time to time in history like luminous beacons, dissipating the darkness of their age and lighting up the future? To deny this pre-eminence would indeed be to insult humanity, in believing it capable of submitting, for a long time and voluntarily, to a dominion which did not rest upon veritable greatness and incontestable utility. Let us be logical, and we shall be just.

Too many historians find it easier to decry men of genius than, with a generous inspiration, to raise themselves to their height by penetrating their vast designs. Thus, in Cæsar's case, instead of showing us Rome torn by civil wars, corrupted by riches, treading her ancient institutions under foot, threatened by powerful peoples—the Gauls, the Germans, and the Parthians—incapable of sustaining herself without a stronger, more stable, and juster central power;—instead, I say, of tracing this faithful picture, Cæsar is represented to us as already dreaming of the supreme power from early youth. If he resists Scylla, if he disagrees with Cicero, if he allies himself with Pompey, it is owing to that far-sighted astuteness which has divined all to enslave all; if he makes a foray into Gaul, it is to acquire riches by pillage, or soldiers devoted to his schemes; if he crosses the sea to carry the Roman eagles into an unknown country, but the conquest of which will strengthen that of Gaul; it is to seek the pearls which were believed to exist in the waters of Great Britain. If, after having vanquished the redoubtable enemies of Italy beyond the Alps, he meditates an expedition against the Parthians to avenge the defeat of Crassus, it is, say certain historians, because an active life suited his nature, and his health was better when upon a campaign. If he gratefully accepts from the Senate a laurel crown and wears it with pride, it is to hide his bald head. If, lastly, he was assassinated by those whom he had overwhelmed with benefits, it is because he means to make himself king, as if he was not thus greater than any king to his contemporaries as well as to posterity. Since Suetonius and Plutarch, such have been the paltry interpretations men have found pleasure in giving to the noblest actions. But by what mark can we recognise a man's greatness? By the empire of his ideas, when his principles and his system triumph in spite of his death or his defeat. Is it not, in fact, the peculiarity of genius to survive annihilation, and to extend its empire over future generations. Cæsar disappears, and his influence predominates more even than during his life. Cicero, his adversary, is forced to exclaim, "All the actions of Cæsar, his writings, his words, his promises, his thoughts, have greater power after his death than if he still lived." For ages it has been sufficient to tell the world that such had been the will of Cæsar to obtain the world's obedience.

The above shows sufficiently the object I propose to myself in writing this history. The object is to prove that, when Providence raises up such men as Cæsar, Charlemagne, and Napoleon, it is to trace out for peoples the course they ought to pursue, to set the seal of their genius upon a new era, and to accomplish the labour of several ages in a few years. Happy the nations who understand and follow them! wretched they who misconceive and strive against them! They act like the Jews—they crucify their Messiah; they are blind and guilty; blind, in not perceiving the importance of their efforts to arrest the definitive triumph of good; guilty, inasmuch as they only retard progress by shackling her prompt and fruitful application.

In effect, neither the murder of Cæsar nor the captivity of St. Helena have been able irretrievably to destroy two popular causes overthrown by a league disguising itself under the mask of liberty. In killing Cæsar, Brutus plunged Rome into the horrors of civil war; he did not prevent the reign of Augustus, but he rendered those of Nero and Caligula possible. Neither has the ostracism of Napoleon by associated Europe prevented the Empire from reviving; yet, nevertheless, how far are we from the great questions resolved, the passions appeased, the legitimate satisfaction given to peoples by the First Empire!

* Montesquieu—"Grandeur et Décadence des Romains," xviii.

† Suetonius—"Cæsar," xxii.

‡ "Cæsar determined to pass into Britain, the people of which had assisted the Gauls in almost all the wars."—Cæsar, "De Bello Gallico," iv., xx.

§ Suetonius—"Cæsar," xlvii.

|| Appian—"Civil Wars," l. ex., 326. Schweighauser edit.

¶ Cicero—"Epla. ad Atticum," xiv., x.

Thus is daily verified, since 1815, this prophecy of the captive of St. Helena:—

"How many conflicts, how much blood, how many years, are not still requisite before the good I desired to do humanity can be realised?" *
NAPOLEON.

Palace of the Tuileries, March 20, 1862.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

On Sunday morning, the Queen, their Royal Highnesses Princess Helena, Princess Louise, Prince Arthur, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice, with the Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting, attended Divine service in the private chapel, Windsor. The Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor officiated, and administered the Sacrament of the Holy Communion.

The Prince and Princess of Wales attended Divine service at the Chapel Royal, St. James's, on Sunday morning. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Temple from Luke i. 47, 48.

The *Court Journal* says:—

On Sunday last her Majesty had a most miraculous escape from being crushed to death by the falling of a huge elm-tree in the Home Park. Her Majesty was taking an airing on her favourite little Scotch pony, and proceeding through the tall avenue of elms at Windsor known as Queen Elizabeth's Ride, the pony being led by a gillie, and a groom following at a short distance, when, fortunately and providentially, the servant observed one of the large trees falling immediately over her Majesty. The groom called out loudly, and her Majesty, made aware of the danger by this timely alarm, escaped being crushed beneath the tree by a few yards only.

The *Owl* makes the following interesting announcements:—

We understand that the negotiations with respect to our quarrel with the Brazils, which a short time ago were broken off, have now been resumed. Acceptable propositions have been made, and there is a probability, amounting almost to a certainty, that we shall shortly resume friendly relations with that empire.

We believe that there is still some question of restoring to Denmark a portion of Schleswig, but that, as this could only be accomplished on the condition of the incorporation of the remainder with the Prussian kingdom, it does not meet the views of certain continental Powers.

If we are not misinformed, the American Government, in giving notice of the termination of the treaty which forbade the establishment of any armed force on the Canadian lakes, defined its action in this matter as entirely of a temporary character. The Government of Washington only seeks to provide for the due police of the lakes, so as to prevent any attempts at raids such as have lately been committed. Under these circumstances, it is probable that her Majesty's Government will not take any measures to place a naval force on the lakes.

The Princess of Wales will hold a Drawing-room at St. James's Palace, on behalf of her Majesty, on Saturday, the 25th of March.

The Prince and Princess of Wales honoured an amateur performance of the officers of the Guards, at the Bijou Theatre, on Saturday night. The band of the Wandering Minstrels officiated in the orchestra, and the audience was an extremely fashionable one. The receipts will be applied to the Guards' Industrial Home.

On Monday evening the Princess Helena, the Princess Louise, and Prince Arthur, were present at a dance in fancy dress, given by her Majesty Queen Marie Amelie at Claremont. The Princesses wore marquise costumes of the last century, with powdered hair; and Prince Arthur a Highland dress of the same epoch, also with powder.

A Cabinet Council was held on Wednesday. Earl Russell was unable to attend, in consequence of a severe cold, which confined him to the house. Another Council was held yesterday.

As the health of Lord Lyons will not allow of his returning at present to Washington, it is, we (*Daily News*) understand, intended that Sir Frederick Bruce shall succeed him as British Minister in the United States. The resignation by Lord Lyons of the post which he has held with so much advantage to the public service will be heard with regret by all.

We (*Times*) have reason to believe that Lieutenants-General Lord Lucan, K.C.B., will succeed the late Field-Marshal Lord Combermere as Gold Stick and Colonel-in-Chief of the 1st Life Guards.

The Earl of Derby had a Parliamentary dinner on Saturday evening.

The Speaker gave his second Parliamentary full-dress dinner on Saturday evening.

Lady Palmerston gave her second reception on Saturday night at the noble Premier's residence in Piccadilly. The saloons were crowded by a brilliant company.

Major Wodehouse, her Majesty's Consul in the Society Islands, has been appointed Consul at Para, in Brazil. The former office will not be filled up.

Lord Enfield, M.P. for Middlesex, and eldest son of Lord Strathford, has consented to accept the office of Secretary of the Poor Law Board, just vacated by the resignation of Mr. Gilpin, M.P. for Northampton.

Mr. Harcastle intends to move "the previous question," as an amendment to Sir Fitzroy Kelly's motion on malt on the 7th of March.

Mr. A. Miall has in the press, and expects to publish early next month, a new work by Edward Miall, Esq., entitled, "An Editor off the Line; or, Wayside Musings and Reminiscences."

* In truth, how many agitations, civil wars, and revolutions have not taken place in Europe since 1815—in France, Spain, Italy, Poland, Belgium, Hungary, Greece, and Germany.

Law and Police.

THE GREAT BURGLARIES IN THE CITY AND THE STRAND.—On Friday afternoon a clever capture was effected of six persons who, there can be little doubt, are the thieves who have recently committed the extensive burglaries that have created so great a sensation in commercial and other circles. Their names are William Henry Jeffrey, Martha Jeffrey, Thomas Carly, Ann Carly, Thomas Bruton, and Louis Bruton. The arrest was made between three and four o'clock, but was not completed without very considerable difficulty, one of the prisoners, Thomas Bruton, known as the "Velvet Lad," offering a desperate resistance. The discovery of the property leaves no doubt that the persons captured were engaged in the "Walker" and "Abraham" burglaries. On Saturday the prisoners were brought up at Bow-street for examination. The crowded state of the court attested the public interest which was felt in the case. Mr. John Thomas Walker was the first person examined. He identified the watches and chains, which had been recovered by the police, as a part of the stolen property. Inspector Potter stated that, in company with several other officers, he went to a house in the Whitechapel-road on Friday, and apprehended the prisoners. The woman Bruton, in whose pockets a large number of chains were discovered, offered considerable resistance. The prisoners were remanded. Yesterday they were again brought up at Bow-street, but were remitted to the Mansion House to be examined in reference to the robberies at the shops of Mr. Walker and Mr. Johnson. There some evidence was taken, and the prisoners were remanded. It seems that some of the watches stolen from the shop of Mr. Walker have been thrown by the thieves into the Thames near Blackfriars-bridge. Several have already been fished up from the river.

THE WAY LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES ARE GOT UP.—Another insight into the manner in which some joint-stock companies have been got up was afforded by a case tried in the Court of Queen's Bench on Tuesday. Captain Antrobus and a Mr. Hughson sued a solicitor named Wickens and a gentleman named Folch for 10,000*l.* It seems that the defendants and some other persons had made an agreement to purchase Mr. Crawshaw Bailey's ironworks for 253,000*l.*, and they were seeking to get up a company to be called the "Aberaman Ironworks Company," which was to pay them 350,000*l.* for the works, thus leaving them a profit of nearly 100,000*l.* They had difficulty, however, in getting together the deposit money for the purchase, and in getting a sufficient number of shares taken to give the company a good appearance before the public. The plaintiffs say that they agreed to get both for a commission of 10,000*l.*—namely, 5,000*l.* for the advance of 10,000*l.*, and 5,000*l.* for the placing of 8,000 shares. They induced the London Bank of Scotland to advance the money and take the shares on a heavy premium, and then claimed the commission. The Lord Chief Justice, who tried the case, repeatedly interrupted the evidence with exclamations of astonishment at the revelations made. The defence was a denial that any engagement had been made with the plaintiffs. On Wednesday the jury, after consulting together for five minutes, returned a verdict for the defendants.

THE MATLOCK WILL CASE.—The extraordinary will case of Nuttall, in which John Elae has figured in so many codicils, was, it may be hoped, brought to a final close on Saturday. It may be remembered that the latest discovery of codicils in relation to the will was in May last year, when the furniture of the testator was sold by auction, and among other things the bed on which he died, which on being taken down was discovered to contain some more codicils. On this the parties applied to have a new trial, which the Master of the Rolls refused, and the Lord Chancellor, on being appealed to, confirmed his judgment on Saturday, mainly on the ground that these papers were discovered in time to have been used in the late action if they were so minded.

WILLIAM WEAVER, "the converted clown," has been arrested at West Bromwich on a charge of bigamy. [This person, who seems to have taken to sensation preaching as a means of livelihood, is not to be confounded with "Richard" Weaver, the converted collier, whose labours in home-mission work have been as successful as genuine, and whose moral character is unassailable.]

NEW BRIDGE OVER THE THAMES.—Lord Harris laid the foundation-stone of a new bridge across the Thames on Wednesday at Battersea. The bridge is intended to be used by the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company, the present bridge being found insufficient for their traffic.

A VERY SINGULAR AND DISGRACEFUL AFFAIR has happened at Hull. It seems that among the Jews resident there some dispute exists as to who is the head of the congregation. Some pin their faith on Mr. Marks, others on Mr. Farbstein. The other day the infant child of a Mr. Cohen died, and the content of Mr. Farbstein having been obtained, the body was buried in the Jewish cemetery. Later a letter was received stating that as Mr. Marks's sanction had not been given for the burial, some arrangement must be made or the body would be disinterred. Mr. Cohen took no notice of the letter, and a short time afterwards a parcel was delivered at his house containing the body of the child. Application in reference to the matter has been made to the police-magistrate, and no doubt some further steps will be taken.

Literature.

"WOMAN'S WORK IN THE CHURCH."

Under the above title, Mr. Ludlow, well-known for the high aim and earnest tone of his contributions to our more thoughtful serial literature, presents us with an interesting monograph on a highly characteristic department of Christian effort. The somewhat peppery "dedication to the Reverend the Free Church Presbytery of Strathbogie, N.B.," whose "better information" it is deemed fitted to promote, may serve to warn the reader that the author is no mere dilettantist; and at the same time, that his contribution to Church History has quite a different object from certain popular productions of the day, dealing with the work of Christian women as now being carried on. It is Mr. Ludlow's aim to trace the subject of feminine ministry from the earliest annals of the Church down to the present time; with the object of showing, by the experience of the past, what fruits have been gathered, and what dangers and temptations beset all such special consecration of women. The first documents bearing upon the subject are of course the Epistles of St. Paul: whose pastoral letters are the archives of the Primitive Church. Mr. Ludlow shows that these introduce us directly or indirectly to no less than four classes of women specially related to the Church. These are deaconesses, widows, "church-virgins," and sister-companions (happily we have no word to represent the ill-omened *συνοδιστριαι*): the first two classes being obviously Apostolic; the third, doubtfully so; the fourth, a grievous corruption, based probably in the first instance upon the declared "right" of the Apostle Paul to "lead about" with him a "woman that was a sister" (so, doubtless, we ought to understand 1 Cor. ix. 5), and the subject of frequent and severe condemnation by the early Councils. We have always looked upon it as impossible to dispute the existence of specially appointed ministering women or deaconesses in the times of the Apostles; and Mr. Ludlow's further examination of the passages bearing upon the subject, therefore, only confirms our previous opinion. As for the class of "widows,"—with regard to whom more explicit directions are given by St. Paul than concerning any other department of church life—the chief value of our author's inquiry lies in the clearness with which he shows, that it is only by a confusion of things totally and inherently different, that these have been at any period, or to any extent, confounded with the more honourable condition of the ministering women or deaconesses. There is, however, great probability in the conjecture, that the latter as they reached that age—sixty years, according to 1 Tim. v. 9—when they became incapacitated for exertion, would pass from the active into the passive status, and be themselves maintained as the alms-women of the church to which their services had in earlier life been given.

So far there is no great difficulty. Regarding all such arrangements as matters of expediency rather than principle—where Apostolic sanction itself becomes suggestive rather than directory—we are content to see in such facts precious indications of the potency of that new life which by and in the Gospel was being imparted to the world. With regard to the "church-virgins"—a class of women unquestionably recognised in times very little removed from Apostolic—we feel somewhat more difficulty. What is precisely the meaning of that enigmatical passage in 1 Cor. vii. 36, 37? Does the direction refer simply to the case of unmarried women under parents and governors? If so, how much plainer would the instructions have been made by the use of the terms "daughter" or "ward" instead of virgin! Yet, on the other hand, it is hard to believe, as some have done, that under any circumstances an inspired Apostle would, in the remotest degree, have sanctioned, or seemed to sanction, so perilous a fiction as a virgin marriage. The subject is indeed encompassed with such difficulties, that in the absence of other light upon a short and obscure passage, we must be content to leave the question *sub judice*. As for the companion-sisters, the only shadow of support—and a shadow, indeed, it is—they receive from Scripture, is contained in the etymological identity of their current appellation with the verb used by St. Paul in 1 Cor. ix. 5, before referred to. Never was there, indeed, a more odious perversion than this defilement of a pure fact which is one of the glories of the Apostolic Church—the healthy, holy co-operation of men with women, in an age when all woman's relations to man were steeped in moral degradation;—this

conversion of the fellow-worker and fellow-traveller of earlier and better days, into the tolerated concubine of bishops of a secularised and corrupt ecclesiastical system.

From Apostolic precedents, Mr. Ludlow goes on to trace the history of church-women during the ages of the "Fathers," and through mediæval down to modern times. It is shown how the curse of asceticism began early to settle upon Christian consecration of self;—how even a Chrysostom, whose vigorous protests against the insidious vices of clergy over whom he exercised archiepiscopal authority have won the admiration and almost the enthusiasm of a Gibbon, could find it in his heart to heap the most fulsome eulogiums, and in most unstinted abundance, upon a woman whose self-inflicted rigours had brought upon herself "such a swarm of diseases as to confound the physician's skill and the power of medicine!" Not without reason may the author infer, that she who could thus abuse and dishonour her own physical nature, was little likely to be of any help or service in the Church's proper work of alleviating pain, privation, and distress.

From the commencement of the fifth century onwards, the female diaconate was brought more and more under State control; and "its later history," says Mr. Ludlow, "consists mainly of the efforts of the State to subject the institution to the disabilities of actual monasticism." In the course of about another hundred years, the office of deaconess in the Eastern Church had become so far reduced to system, and made the subject of legal regulation, that the holder of it was in the strictest sense a clergy-woman,—if we may be allowed the use of a term which alone seems adequate. She was ordained in precisely the same way as the male clergy; to a large extent, she exercised identical functions; and so vigorous had the self-assumed obligation become, that breach of celibacy on her part, even by marriage, became punishable by death! Surely "the glory hath departed!" Nor could the institution survive such fatal conditions. In point of fact the female diaconate gradually disappears from a Church where it had been turned into the most monstrous of anomalies. We must allow Mr. Ludlow to describe in his own manner the causes of its fall:—

"Why did it perish? Evidently through the growth in the church of the false ascetic principle, and in particular of the practice of religious celibacy,—to which, according to its original constitution, it must have been a serious obstacle,—by which it suffered itself to be overlaid. The scope of the female diaconate in the Primitive Church was, as we have seen, to afford a full development to female energies for religious purposes; to associate women, as far as possible, in rank and practice with men, while preserving to each sex its distinct sphere of activity; to the one the supremacy of the head, to the other that of the heart; to the one power, to the other influence; to the one the office of public preaching, exhortation, relief, to the other that of private exhortation, consolation, helpfulness; yet each acting under the inspiration of that Holy Spirit who was invoked alike over the head of deacon and deaconess at their ordination. True in this was the church to the laws of man's being, as displayed progressively throughout Holy Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. By a free-ordained and eternal marriage, man and woman must be one, in order to fulfil the great destinies of humanity. . . . History confirms the lesson from age to age, from country to country, by shewing how, if you deprive either sex of its free action, of its free influence over the other, the result is national sterility; the man a savage, the woman a fool."—Pp. 72–74.

Mr. Ludlow next goes on to show how the decay of the female diaconate was followed by the rise of sisterhoods, such as that of the Béguines in the eleventh century—an order more closely corresponding to the primitive one than was possible under the iron rigour of monasticism. This movement, indeed, he observes, "offers the first complete realisation of 'the idea of a collective female diaconate';—the Béguine forming no part of the clergy, and 'enjoying a large amount of individual freedom, as compared with the nun.' In tracing the origin of Béguinage and similar foundations, the writer is led to give a brief sketch of the rise and development of monasticism generally:—that type to which even such associations as originally planted themselves on a freer basis, were ultimately compelled to conform. The transition from the solitary of Upper Egypt—whose reputation for sanctity gradually attracts to him a fraternity bound only by usages growing naturally out of their circumstances,—to the vast Benedictine, Franciscan or Dominican Order, is carefully and ably traced; till in Jesuitism we are presented with the final term of the series;—the "last fruit which the tree of 'monachism,' as the author judges, is destined to bear. It would be beside our purpose to follow him through these details; especially as we should be compelled, in so doing, to compress further what has already been compressed perhaps too much. Mr. Ludlow has added to the value of his work by reprinting the very interesting article on 'Protestant Sisterhoods,' contributed by himself to the *Edinburgh Review* so far back as 1848. Since then, public attention has been

largely directed to this and kindred subjects, and much that was then novel has now become matter of general sympathy. Mr. Ludlow is of far too manly a nature for us to dread any contagion of asceticism or monkery from him. If anything, we should rather find fault with him for the very vehemence of the terms in which he evidently cannot help expressing his abhorrence for certain notions, forming part of the essence of conventual life as it has hitherto existed, and as it must exist where a monastic separation of what God has joined together is carried out. In denouncing that cherished dream of the nunnery, that each sister's soul is individually wedded to the Heavenly Bridegroom, Mr. Ludlow employs terms which are at least as stinging as they are true. "Polygamous fiction"—"precaution of Mohammedan libertinism"—"Eastern harem"—"cardinal idea of the worship of Krishna"—such are some of the pungent characterisations which alone seem to him adequate to describe a notion as false as it is in theology dehumanising in its tendency.

Mr. Ludlow has perhaps attempted too much for so small a volume; and as he is incapable of slovenly work, the result is—as we have hinted—a degree of condensation which may deter such readers as may be untrained in close historico-theological reading. If he had made a larger book of it, he might perhaps have made it more generally attractive: but however that may be, we have only thanks to tender to him for that which he has done so well.

"NOTES ON BRAZIL."

The volume before us is a contribution to the history of the differences between Great Britain and Brazil. The greater part of the matter has already appeared in the columns of a contemporary journal; but the author might not unnaturally wish to bring the same before a public of a less exclusive range than that which even an influential newspaper like the *Daily News* can command. Unfortunately, Mr. Christie has taken little pains with the arrangement of his materials; and those who are not acquainted with our quarrels in that part of the globe where he exercised his plenipotentiary functions, will have considerable difficulty in arriving at any coherent and comprehensive view of the whole question. But on the other hand, Mr. Christie's manner of speaking throughout, leaves upon the mind an impression of conscientiousness and candour; and these are higher and more important qualities than skill in bookmaking. In the present notice we shall confine ourselves to a statement of the main points on which light is thrown by the details furnished, leaving all political inferences for discussion in that part of our columns to which such matters more properly belong.

Mr. Christie deals more or less fully with three different grounds of dispute between our own Government and that of Brazil. First,—and apparently that to which Mr. Christie attaches the most importance—the rights of the *Emancipados*, or captives rescued by British vessels employed for the suppression of the slave-trade, and set at liberty on Brazilian soil; second, the claims made for compensation for loss of property, sustained by British subjects through revolutions and various causes; third, the case of the Prince of Wales, wrecked on the coast of Brazil, and said to have been pillaged by the inhabitants. Into the story of the Forte he does not enter; while even the more serious case of the Prince of Wales is treated with great brevity.

The facts about the *Emancipados* are stated very fully; and they are sufficiently important in themselves to warrant the stress laid upon them, whatever view may be taken of the conduct of our Government as a whole. They are something like the following. In the year 1826, immediately after the recognition by Portugal of the independence of Brazil, a Convention was concluded between Brazil and Great Britain. The first article of the Convention declared the carrying on of the slave-trade by Brazilian subjects to be piracy; and by subsequent articles, "all the provisions as to right of search and mixed commissions for adjudication of captures, contained in the existing treaties between Great Britain and Portugal," were adopted and ratified. The following was the special regulation with regard to captives found on board of captured vessels, which has given rise to so much correspondence:—

"As to the slaves, they shall receive from the Mixed Commission a certificate of emancipation, and shall be delivered over to the Government on whose territory the Commission which shall have so judged them shall be established, to be employed as servants or free labourers. Each of the two Governments binds itself to guarantee the liberty of such portion of these individuals as shall be respectively assigned to it."—P. 2.

The above Convention remained in force until

* *Woman's Work in the Church. Historical Notes on Deaconesses and Sisterhoods.* By JOHN MALCOLM LUDLOW. London: Strahan.

* *Notes on Brazilian Questions.* By W. D. CHRISTIE, late her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Brazil. Macmillan.

March, 1845, the time of its legal expiry. The Mixed Commission Courts continued to sit a few months longer, and the unfortunate "free Africans," towards whom the British Government felt itself to stand in the position of a guardian, are those handed over to the Brazilian Government, with certificates of freedom, between 1830—when the main stipulation respecting the slave-trade became operative—and 1845. The total number of these has been variously estimated at from 10,000 to 25,000. It would seem as if the terms of the Convention were sufficiently explicit; yet it appears to be clearly established that the "liberty" granted to these unfortunates was in the majority of cases no better than a name. Not only did large numbers of the *Emancipados* continue to be employed, without wages, in public works; but large numbers also were employed by private persons, and—as a writer advocating the Brazilian side in this controversy freely allows—by being transferred from hand to hand, became so mixed up with the vast body of slaves scattered over a country almost as large as Europe, as to be incapable of control and oversight on the part of the Brazilian Government. Nor is this the worst. There is too much reason to believe that in many cases, where these poor creatures were working under private employers, or where their children were taken to the hospital for such, systematically falsified reports of deaths were given in and accepted by interested officials; so that those legally entitled to freedom might be thus irrevocably consigned to bondage. Moreover, the slave-trade was gradually resumed. On December 28, 1853, a decree was issued by the Brazilian Government, ordering that the "liberated Africans who shall have served private individuals during the space of fourteen years, are to be emancipated, upon their petitioning for the same" (p. 39). Hitherto no term of apprenticeship had been fixed; and even now, no provision was made for such as were in the service of the Government. Moreover, the formalities and expenses of a "petition" for freedom, were such as to make even the tardy concession of right which was made, in perhaps the great majority of cases, quite inoperative. The then British Minister in Brazil (Mr., afterwards Sir H. Howard) appealed to the Brazilian Government to dispense with the "petition." The reply was, that the "speedy and simultaneous emancipation of a large number in a body, tumultuously and without any formality," might jeopardise public order: a mode of justification well meriting the quiet rebuke it elicited from the British Minister, that "if the Imperial Government had gradually emancipated the Africans in question, any danger from simultaneous emancipation would have been obviated."

Subsequently the Brazilian Government appear to have become more awake to their responsibilities. During five years, from 1859 to 1863, some three hundred of the *Emancipados* received letters of emancipation; and during the following year, it is said about 1,000 more. Also, in 1861, the fourteen-year apprenticeship clause was made applicable to such "free Africans" as might be employed in public works. Yet as the "Mixed Commission" ceased to sit in 1845, it is evident the whole number must have long ago completed more than the period defined by the Act of 1853, and consequently ought to be in the full enjoyment of liberty. But the fact is, Brazil is a slave country, with a slave population nearly as numerous as that which is free; and where that is the case, it is idle to look for sympathy with efforts for the abolition of the slave-trade, or with "liberated Africans." A few noble-minded men, superior to the morality of their country, will feel the shame involved in the breach of definite contracts; but till the general tone of feeling is raised, such stipulations as those of the Convention of 1826 will be looked upon as impertinences, and as far as possible evaded. We wish the British Government were as well justified in all its foreign proceedings as it has been in its remonstrances on behalf of these poor *Emancipados*.

With the question of the "free Africans" is closely connected that of the passing of the Aberdeen Act. There can be no doubt that the slipperiness of the Brazilian Government, as shown in its dealing with these unfortunates, as well as with the slave-trade generally, had much to do with the determination of Lord Aberdeen to have recourse to those high-handed measures which were adopted by him, and by the British Legislature, in 1845—the year of the expiry of the Convention. There was no question about the existence of a thriving trade in slaves carried on from Brazil ports. The annual importation was at that time estimated at 70,000. Brazil refused to enter into such Conventions with Great Britain as even Portugal and Spain had done; and, accordingly, Great Britain took the law into her own hands. The Act itself was carried through both Houses of Parliament in less than a month, and without a division. Since that time,

the Brazil slave-trade—whether by means of that Act or not, we presume not to say—has become nearly or quite extinct: and it is now urged that Britain is under an implied engagement to repeal the said Act,—the resumption of the detestable traffic being assumed to be impossible. On this point we do not here express any opinion. But as we have said, our faith in a slave-owner's avowed abhorrence of manstealing, is of the weakest. Further, it appears from the report of our Consul at Rio, that the price of slaves ranges in Rio from 100*l.* to 200*l.* And so long as there is this demand, we imagine there is a likelihood of a supply being forthcoming. Mr. Christie adds some interesting, but far from encouraging, statements, as to the prospects of emancipation in Brazil generally. If his views are correct, those prospects are distant enough. So far from those important steps of which we have heard somewhat, being taken to bring about freedom, Mr. Christie declares that he knows of nothing that can be alluded to under such terms, beyond the tardy annual emancipation of the "free Africans."

Into the question of the claims put forward for compensation on the part of British merchants and others, we shall not enter. The case of the Prince of Wales is of more general interest. This unfortunate vessel perished with all on board; and under circumstances strongly suggestive of wrecking. Mr. Christie animadverts upon some statements of a writer in the *Quarterly* for April, 1864, in an article upon our "Foreign Policy"; and shows some strong reasons for believing that the British Government were justified in the stringent measures adopted by them. The said writer, alluding to some "indications of plunder" of the ill-fated ship, mentions—as apparently all that could be adduced on this head—"a Bible (!) and some empty packing-cases, which were found in the house of the chief landed proprietor in the district," and which, though alleged to have been "picked up on the beach," might of course possibly have been stolen "from the wreck." Yet, Mr. Christie informs us, that on the showing of the municipal judge who accompanied the Consul to the scene, "many barrels, chests, and 'cases' were to be found 'on the shore,' with evident 'signs of having been violently broken open and pillaged.' To the same effect, the Chief of Police, who describes the affair as "*espantoso pilhagem*"—"a frightful pillage," (p. 178.) We have heard of Bibles and Prayer-books figuring under analogous circumstances before; and we imagine the writer in the *Quarterly* will hold his tongue about the one brought by him into court, when he next addresses himself to the Brazilian question. Here again, admitting the blackest version of the story, what have we but a reproduction of scenes which even yet linger in the memories of old people along the coasts of Devon and Cornwall? Lord Palmerston, in the House of Commons, expressed his belief that the crew of the Prince of Wales "were overpowered by the people of the district, who with lassos dragged them from their shelter, and then murdered them." Horrible as this is, it is not incredible. In concluding his papers, Mr. Christie remarks, "the story of the Prince of Wales and the officers of the *Forte*, and of the reprisals, yet remains to be told." While thanking him for the measure of information he has furnished, we can only say, that we hope, if he should ever attempt the telling of those stories himself, he will endeavour so to arrange his materials as render them more readily accessible to the reader than those of the present volume.

"CHIROGNOMY AND CHIROMANCY."*

These mysterious-looking words are applied to the science, or quasi-science, which professes to read character and destiny in the hand. This gypsy-looking study now claims admission to the halls of learning and the notice of savans. It is, of course, only a branch of physiology, and may be admitted as a sub-class of the same rank as physiognomy and cranioscopy, or, as its devotees prefer to call it, phrenology. There is no reason why these sub-classes should not be multiplied to an indefinite extent. Everything that belongs to humanity is capable of yielding hidden meanings to anyone who will bring a penetrating eye and an interpreting mind to the study. No man can wear a hat or a pair of slippers for a month or two without putting something of his individuality into his garments. "The apparel oft proclaims the man." You may gain plenty of hints concerning character by looking keenly at a man's surroundings—the quality and arrangement of his furniture, books, pictures, ornaments. Without even going into a house, you may often

* *The Psychonomy of the Hand; or, the Hand an Index of Mental Development, according to M.M. D'Appertigny and Desbarrolles. With Illustrative Tracings from Living Hands.* By RICHARD BEAMISH, F.R.S., &c. London: Pitman, 1865.

give a shrewd guess at the character of the inmates by a rapid glance at windows, garden, fences, walls, doors, &c. There is expression in the way any one shakes hands with his friends—in the style in which a smoker holds his pipe or cigar, or puffs out its fumes—in the mode in which a pedestrian wields his stick or umbrella—in the manner of taking food, playing musical instruments, or singing songs. Some secret may be let out by the attitude a man takes when he is talking in a parlour or shop, the chair he selects and the mode in which he sits upon it. The tones of the voice are full of meaning; the selection of phrases, the structure of sentences, everything that a man does, almost everything that he touches, may bear the stamp of his individuality. There are already "professors" of "Graphiology," who delineate character from handwriting, and their conclusions or guesses are sometimes singularly true to nature.

If everything that the hand does is thus significant, it is not unreasonable to suppose that the hand itself may be still more so. Those who wish to know how much has been done in this branch of enquiry will find in the book before us a tolerably full and clear account of the conclusions which chiromancers have arrived at. There are a number of plates illustrating the different classes of hands, and the types of character with which they are associated. Thus we have a portrait of the artistic impulsive hand,—the hand of a man of strong will and great practical ability,—the hand of a navy, of an idiot, of a criminal,—the large firm hand of a delicate manipulator—the hand of prejudice, with its smooth spatulous thumb, the nail set into the broad flattened first phalanx (or finger bone), the second phalanx very short and small. There are representations of the hands of Brunel, Lord Brougham, Dr. Whewell, John Martin, the historical painter, and Helen Faucit (Mrs. Theodore Martin) the tragedian. There are also a few plates illustrative of the typical hands of different nations—Hanoverian, Irish, Hindoo, &c.

In some respects the book is decidedly unsatisfactory. Thus certain peculiarities are said to indicate not merely character, but destiny. Certain lines in the palm are said to indicate a liability to good or evil fortune, to grief, disappointments, death by violence, premature death, a long and happy life exempt from any serious maladies, &c. An art which thus dabbles in vaticination must be received with suspicion even when its conclusions are well founded. Unhappily, the writer has not given us any, or very few, of the data on which these various conclusions rest. He simply declares the interpretation that he has been led to put upon the different characteristics that may belong to the hand, but does not describe to us the processes by which he has reached these interpretations. As long as these data are withheld, comparatively little is taught by the innumerable unsupported assertions which is all that the author gives. And these assertions are of such an extraordinary character,—descending into such marvellously minute detail,—that no one can possibly attach much importance to them without very copious and ample verifications. Not only are we directed to look at the general shape of the hand, but there is a separate meaning attached to every bone and every joint of every finger—to all the myriads of lines marked upon the palm, and to the mode in which all these small details may be grouped and related. The impression one inevitably receives from all this elaboration is that the writer has ridden his hobby to death, or that he has stared at hands so long as to have become biologised by them, and lapsed into monomania. Mr. Beamish appears himself, however, to be rather the editor than the author of the work before us. He does not profess to do more than expound the system of the two French writers whose names appear on the title-page. So far as the broad general characters of the hand are concerned, we think this work is both interesting and instructive; but we do not imagine that many readers will trouble themselves with the mystical and Paganish speculations of the details.

ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

Two pamphlets published by Messrs. Ireland and Co., of Manchester, for the Union and Emancipation Society, have just been brought under our notice, which for the sake of convenience, as well as because both alike bear upon the relations of England to America, we comment upon in one article. The first is a reprint of Professor Goldwin Smith's admirable lecture* delivered before the "Boston Fraternity," which appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly*, and a portion of which we transferred to our columns in our issue of Jan. 4, and remarked upon in the succeeding number. Let us simply add that whatever was true of that part which was then before us, is more emphatically true of the whole lecture. Its lofty eloquence, and the comprehensiveness of view which

* *England and America.* By GOLDWIN SMITH, Ireland and Co., Manchester.

characterises every passage of it, place it beyond the range of criticism, while comment upon it would be simply wearisome. We will give one extract, however, which is but a sample of the rest, and which is a sufficient answer to those who would taunt the Professor with un-English sympathies and with a spirit of partisanship unbecoming an Oxford Professor:—

"English liberties, imperfect as they may be,—and as an English Liberal of course thinks they are,—are the source from which your liberties have flowed, though the river may be more abundant than the spring. Being in America, I am in England,—not only because American hospitality makes me feel that I am still in my own country, but because the institutions are fundamentally the same. The great foundations of constitutional Government, legislative assemblies, Parliamentary representation, personal liberty, self-taxation, the freedom of the press, allegiance to the law as a power above individual will,—all these were established, not without memorable efforts and memorable sufferings, in the land from which the fathers of your Republic came. You are living under the Great Charter, the Petition of Right, the Habeas Corpus Act, the Libel Act. Perhaps you have not even yet taken from us all that, if a kindly feeling continues between us, you may find it desirable to take. England by her eight centuries of constitutional progress has done a great work for you, and the two nations may yet have a great work to do together for themselves and for the world. A student of history, knowing how the race has struggled and stumbled onwards through the ages until now, cannot believe in the finality and perfection of any set of institutions, not even of yours. This vast electioneering apparatus, with its strange machinery and discordant sounds, in the midst of which I find myself,—it may be, and I firmly believe it is, better for its purpose than anything that has gone before it; but is it the crowning effort of mankind? If our creed—the Liberal creed—be true, American institutions are a great step in advance of the old world; but they are not a miraculous leap into a political millennium. They are a momentous portion of that continual onward effort of humanity which it is the highest duty of history to trace; but they are not its final consummation. Model Republic! How many of these models have the course of ages seen broken and flung disdainfully aside! You have been able to do great things for the world because your forefathers did great things for you. The generation will come which in its turn will inherit the fruits of your efforts, add to them a little of its own, and in the plenitude of its self-esteem repay you with ingratitude. The time will come when the memory of the model Republics of the United States, as well as that of the narrow Parliamentary reformers of England, will appeal to history, not in vain, to rescue it from the injustice of posterity, and extend to it the charities of the past.

"New-comers among the nations, you desire, like the rest, to have a history. You seek it in Indian annals, you seek it in Northern sagas. You fondly surround an old windmill with the pomp of Scandinavian antiquity, in your anxiety to fill up the void of your unpeopled past. But you have a real and glorious history, if you will not reject it,—monuments genuine and majestic, if you will acknowledge them as your own. Yours are the palaces of the Plantagenets,—the cathedrals which enshrined our old religion,—the illustrious hall in which the long line of our great judges reared, by their decisions, the fabric of our law,—the gray colleges in which our intellect and science found their earliest home,—the graves where our heroes and sages and poets sleep. It would be ill become you to cultivate narrow national memories in regard to the past as it would to cultivate narrow national prejudices at present. You have come out, as from other relics of barbarism which still oppress Europe, so from the barbarism of jealous nationality. You are heirs to all the wealths of the old world, and must owe gratitude for a part of your heritage to Germany, France, and Spain, as well as to England. Still, it is from England that you are sprung; from her you brought the power of self-government which was the talisman of colonisation and the pledge of your empire here. She it was, that, having advanced by centuries of effort to the front of the Old World, became worthy to give birth to the New. From England you are sprung; and it is because you are Englishmen that English freedom, not French or Spanish despotism, is the law of this continent. From England you are sprung; and if the choice were given you among all the nations of the world, which would you rather choose for a mother?"

This, and many other passages which we might select, will force the conviction upon the careful reader that Professor Smith possesses not only the genius of the historian to trace and vividly to record the facts of history and the progress of nations, but that he has a firm faith in the principles of God's moral government, and discerns with something of the prophetic eye the relations which one nation and one age has borne and will yet bear to other nations and other ages. The words which he applies to Milton are singularly appropriate to his own position in regard to this very American conflict—"strong in that strength of conviction which assures "spirits like his of the future, however dark the present "may appear."

Dr. Sturtevant's lecture,* or more properly the extracts from it, of which the second pamphlet consists, is a well-written American interpretation of the causes which have led to the want of sympathy with the North which England has shown. Our aristocratic institutions—a State-Church, a House of Peers, the law of primogeniture, the monopoly of land, the services of the Army and Navy as a refuge for the younger sons of the families of the nobility, these are seen to prejudice the minds of the ruling classes and those who have political influence against republican institutions. This view is well put and with much force and truth, but the writer quite undervalues the under-current of feeling which, pervading largely our middle classes and almost entirely the working classes, modifies the action of the legislature, although

it is not practically recognised as an element in moulding the laws of the country. There is much to learn from the rebuke conveyed in the following words:—

"It was a sorrowful experience to an American paying his first and probably his only visit to England, after having loved her from his cradle, to be obliged daily to stand face to face with such facts, and to admit such a view of England to be true. Is this then even so? Is this England that has fought so many battles for freedom, and carried her hostility to the slave-trade and negro slavery to the ends of the earth, to fail us in this hour, and give her sympathy, her countenance, and her efficient material aid to this iniquitous conspiracy, pledged to tear down our Republic, because too favourable to freedom, and found a new power, hitherto unknown to the nations, on negro slavery as its corner-stone? Is the English Government and people restrained, not only from recognising this conspiracy against the civilisation of Christendom, but from active intervention in its favour, only by considerations of policy and expediency? Born in treason, robbery, and perjury, do Britons desire its success and victory as a means of dismembering our Republic? And I was forced daily to see and know that they do. And a solemn sense of the enormous criminality of such a position of the English people in such a crisis, suggested to my mind dark forebodings of the convulsions which may yet await that people, and cast many a shadow over what would otherwise have been one of the most cheerful and joyous portions of my life. I affirm, moreover, that this criminality attaches not to aristocrats and Churchmen alone, but to commoners and Dissenting ministers and people."

BRIEF NOTICES.

A Handy-Book on the Law of Friendly, Industrial, Provident, Building, and Loan Societies. With copious notes. By NATHANIEL WHITE, Esq. (Virtue Brothers and Co.) Belonging to the series originally known as "Weale's," and worthy of its companionship with other excellent elementary works. Changes introduced by successive legislative enactments render such a manual absolutely indispensable to those who are largely interested in, or engage in the working of, or would develop all the resources latent to, such societies as are described in the title. The author is full and clear, avoiding all unnecessary technicalities in the phraseology and complexity of law, and accommodating himself to the common sense that may be expected from the officers and founders of such institutions. The work has evidently cost him much research and labour, which we can bear witness have been so successfully bestowed, that all who desire information given with perfect perspicuity may confidently consult his pages.

Practical Hints on Investing Money. By FRANCIS PLAYFORD, Sworn Broker (Virtue Brothers and Co.) Here we have a most useful little work, which may save many from mistake, from annoyance, and from loss. The author explains, in the simplest manner the subject admits of, the nature and objects of the Public Funds generally, accompanied by such particulars as may be useful respecting each particular Stock; and then, not unnecessarily, discloses to inexperienced persons the dangers to which they are exposed, and the disreputable agencies by which too often they are involved ignorantly in difficulties. It is not, however, for its cautionary but its directive character that the work is chiefly valuable. As a classified list of fundholders has shown that it is those who have comparatively little to invest, and not those who might put their thousands into land, who resort to the Public Funds, it is to be hoped that this little work will circulate among all the people of the middle classes who have savings to secure and to live by.

Lectures on Public Health. By Dr. MAPOTHER. (Dublin: Fanning, and Co. London: Hardwicke.) Dr. Mapother is the Medical Officer of Health for Dublin, and surgeon to St. Vincent's Hospital. The twelve lectures which he has collected in this volume were delivered at the Dublin College of Surgeons. The lectures are full of useful information about sanitary matters, conveyed in a lively, forcible, and practical way. The lecturer is evidently familiar with his subject, he is able to bring truly scientific knowledge to bear upon topics upon which it is hard for any one to say anything that is not threadbare by reiteration. Dr. Mapother does more than reproduce the discoveries of other men, he is himself a careful and original investigator. Many subjects which are now being warmly discussed by the public, are here touched upon, and always in a sensible and judicious way, such as the utilisation of sewage, corpulence, and Bantingism, Turkish and other baths, South American dried beef, the site and construction of hospitals, systems of ventilation for private houses and public buildings, &c. In one lecture we find the lecturer dealing in such a palpable *non sequitur* as we should not have expected from a man of his intelligence. Here it is: "The amount of air breathed in varies remarkably "with the dress of the body. Thus a man was found "to breathe nearly one third more air when his ordinary "clothing was removed from him. When such are the "effects of our loose habiliments, it cannot be necessary "to desist upon the evils of tight lacing." We do not quite see what is the connection between the increased circulation and respiration required to supply the deficiency of heat when the clothes are removed, and the obstruction to respiration caused by tight lacing. Does the professor wish us to abandon clothes altogether, on the principle that all clothing more or less obstructs respiration? Such a logical blunder as this must surely be a *lapsus*.

Miscellaneous News.

The number of patients relieved at the Hospital for Diseases of the Heart, 67, Margaret-street, Cavendish-square, was 149 during the week.

THE LATE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND was buried in one of the chapels of Westminster Abbey on Saturday afternoon. An imposing procession was formed at Charing Cross, and the solemn service of the Church of England was rendered in the Abbey in a peculiarly impressive and beautiful style.

AN IMPORTANT REFORM MEETING was held at St. Martin's Hall on Thursday night. It was composed of delegates from the various trades' unions of London, who assembled to consider the expediency of organising a new Reform Association, and of agreeing upon the particular objects which should form the basis of the new movement. Messrs. Edmond Beales and Mason Jones attended on behalf of an influential body of gentlemen who were anxious to promote the cause of Parliamentary Reform. A Reform League founded upon manhood suffrage and vote by ballot was formed. The meeting was both unanimous and enthusiastic.

GOVERNMENT INSURANCE AND ANNUITY TABLES.—These tables have now been issued. The payments of the public, which are to be as low as is consistent with the avoidance of actual loss, may be made monthly, yearly, or in a single sum. A person insuring his life may arrange for his payments to cease when he becomes sixty years old, and in various ways the convenience of the parties is considered. Other tables are under consideration, but at present the annuity tables are framed on the condition that no part of the purchase money is in any event to be returned to the purchaser, nor is there as yet any provision for fixing the surrender value of a policy of insurance. The present tables also provide for the insurance of ordinary lives only; persons following dangerous or unhealthy occupations, such as that of a miner, a butcher, an innkeeper, or a beerseller, cannot, for the present at least, be insured. Persons otherwise in health or habits which have a tendency to shorten life must pay an increased premium if they are accepted. Operatives and all persons wishing to make provision for the future of a life insurance not exceeding 100*l.*, or an annuity or monthly allowance not exceeding 50*l.* a year, may now effect their object without the possibility of loss.

SION NEW CHAPEL DESTROYED BY FIRE.—An alarming fire took place on Saturday night on the premises of Mr. Page, lead and glass merchant, Whitechapel-road. The wind carried the flames across South-street, and set on fire the large wooden structure known as Sion New Chapel, occupied by the church and congregation formerly worshipping in the Old Sion Chapel, of the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion. The pastor, the Rev. J. Thomas, was on the spot immediately after the breaking out of the fire, and after having conjointly with others seen that the inmates of the adjacent houses were extricated from their perilous position, was a painful observer of the destruction of the sanctuary where God has so abundantly blessed his labours, and in which he had expected in a few hours to have ministered the Gospel to an attentive and devoted congregation. The property is insured, but it is felt that the chapel must be rebuilt in a more substantial manner; this will necessarily occasion a very considerable outlay. This being a case of peculiar distress, it is earnestly hoped that prompt and generous assistance will be rendered. We are requested to state that the Rev. William Tyler, 247, Hackney-road, N.E., and the Rev. J. Kennedy, 4, Stepney-green, E., have kindly consented to receive donations towards this object. Contributions will also be thankfully received by the Rev. J. Thomas, 64, St. Peter's-road, Mile End.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.—The half-yearly meeting of the members of this institution was held on Friday in the theatre of the college, Gower-street, Mr. F. Goldsmid in the year. The report of the council, which was a very elaborate document, stated that the receipts from fees of students and school pupils amounted to 10,896*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*, not including a balance of 20*l.* received from fees of students during the previous session. After defraying all incidental expenses of the session there was a balance left to the credit of the college establishment of 12*l.* The number of pupils in the college during the session was 773; viz., 387 students, including thirteen attending the evening classes of Latin, Greek, Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, and 386 boys in the junior school. The students in the faculty of medicine numbered 161, of whom forty-eight were new students. The students of the faculty of arts and laws numbered 213, including thirteen attending the evening classes. The number of new students in the general classes was 136, and the students of analytical chemistry in the Birkbeck Laboratory fifteen. The highest number of boys in the junior school in any one term was 333. The entries for the current session up to this period were—medical students, 150, of whom forty-seven are new students. The number of new entries to the hospital was thirty-eight; students of the faculty of arts and laws, 202, of whom 119 are new students, analytical chemistry, twenty. The number of boys in the junior school this term was 387, at the corresponding period last year 318. Referring to the hospital, the council found cause for congratulation in its improved condition, both present and prospectively. The amount of invested property was now more than 12,000*l.*, yielding an income of nearly 600*l.* per annum. The debt had been reduced from 7,900*l.* to 4,500*l.* to the end of October last. Legacies of 2,000*l.*, free of

* *English Institutions and the American Rebellion.* By J. M. STURTEVANT, D.D., President of Illinois College, Manchester: Ireland and Co.

potatoes. The trade, both for English and Scotch descriptions, is steady, and prices rule firm. There were no imports into London last week.

SEEDS, Monday, Feb. 27.—The change in the weather of the last few days caused an improved inquiry for seeds this morning, and a fair amount of business was done at full prices. Red seed, without any improvement in supply, was without change in value. White seed was unaltered, with limited inquiry. Trefoils meet more inquiry, and obtain full rates.

WOOL, Monday, February 27.—Since our last report very few transactions have taken place in home-grown wools, either for home use or for export. Prices, however, are well supported. The supply of wool on offer is very moderate. For export, very little is doing. The next public sales of colonial wool are looked forward to with much interest by manufacturers generally.

TALLOW, Monday, Feb. 27.—The tallow trade is quiet today, and prices have a drooping tendency. New P.Y.C. is quoted at 40s. 6d. per cwt. on the spot. Town tallow is selling at 41s. 3d. net cash. Rough fat has declined to 2s. 1½d. per 8lbs.

OIL, Monday, Feb. 27.—Linsed oil is dull at 32s. 6d. per cwt. on the spot. For rape there is a moderate demand, at our quotations. Spermi is firm, and is worth 86s. to 87s. per ton. French spirits of turpentine are worth 67s. 6d. to 68s. per cwt.

COALS, Monday, Feb. 27.—Factors had to submit to a reduction on last day's rates. Hetton's, 20s.; South Hetton's, 20s.; Hartlepool, 20s.; South Kelloe, 19s. 6d.; Hugh Hall, 19s. 6d.; Wylam, 16s. 3d.; Hotspurs, 17s. 6d.; Hartley's, 15s.; Lambert's Hartley, 14s. 9d.; North Paton, 13s. 6d.; Tanfield, 14s.; Holywell, 16s. 3d. Fresh arrivals:—80 ships; left from last day, 65; total, 145; 315 at sea.

Advertisements.

TO CHEMISTS and DRUGGISTS.—WANTED. Immediately, a CONFIDENTIAL UNMARRIED MAN, to reside in the House and take Charge of the Retail Trade. Apply, stating terms, &c., to Grimwade, Ridley, and Co., Ipswich.

THE ROYAL OSBORNE (PATENT) MIXTURE OF TEAS.
6lbs. Sent to any part of England carriage free.
Agents wanted in all Towns where there are none appointed
FRANKS, SON and CO., 40, Queen-street, Cannon-street West.

HORNIMAN'S PURE TEA
It is CHOICE and STRONG, BECAUSE it consists of most valuable growths that are full of rich essential properties.

It is MODERATE in PRICE, BECAUSE it is supplied direct from the importers to the consumers by Agents.

It is WHOLESOME to use, BECAUSE the leaf is not faced with the usual powdered mineral colours.

These COMBINED ADVANTAGES have secured for this Tea a general preference. It is sold in sealed packets, with the price printed on each, and signed—

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Self-fitting. No Holder, Paper, or Scraping required.
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